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Libby Purves advises Stephen Fry to stay away, **page 17**



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THE TIMES

No. 65,199 FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24 1995

DIVISION RK

Whipless rebels to decide outcome

Major takes gamble on Europe vote

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR has decided to put his authority on the line in a knife-edge vote on Europe next week in which the Government's fate will almost certainly be decided by its nine whipless rebels.

In a move that surprised his supporters and opponents the Prime Minister opted yesterday to spearhead the Government's defence against a Labour motion attacking its policy on the European Union.

He faces a perilously close vote because the Ulster Unionists, who have saved the Government in crucial divisions in the recent past, seem poised to withdraw their backing and exact a heavy penalty for what they see as the sell-out of the Anglo-Irish framework document.

But it appeared last night that Mr Major had embarked on a high-risk strategy that, if successful, could result in some of the rebels who lost the whip last November returning to the fold and restoring the Government's overall Commons majority. His highly unusual decision to speak on an Opposition motion was not taken by the Cabinet but by Mr Major, in consultation with senior colleagues. It emerged that he had decided to speak in order to give an "authoritative" statement of the Government's policy on Europe, which has become more Euro-sceptical since the turn of the year.

Informed sources said that he intended to use the occasion of a full-scale parliamentary debate to reinforce the stance he set out in his speech to the right-wing Conservative Way Forward group earlier this month.

Much of what the Prime Minister said in that speech was welcomed by the sceptics, and he is clearly hoping that by reiterating many of its sentiments he will clear up the confusion that has clouded the Government's European policy since then and may also appeal to the rebels.

But senior ministers admitted last night that his decision to speak also underlined the seriousness of next Wednesday's debate. It will be one of the most critical votes Mr Major has faced; if he loses he will have to return to the Commons the following day to face a confidence motion. Defeat on that would mean a general election.

Labour tabled a motion stating that the Commons did not support the Government's policy on the EU "and does not believe it promotes the interests of the British people".

It was drawn in such simple terms in order to attract maximum support from Opposition parties and the whipless Tories. The Liberal Democrats immediately made plain that they would support it. The nine Ulster Unionists, meeting at the Commons to discuss their tactics on the framework document, deferred their decision until the debate is under way next week. They are not expected to support the Government.

With the Unionist vote no longer reliable, Mr Major desperately needs his nine whipless rebels, cast out from the parliamentary party after the vote on increasing contributions to the EU Budget, to come back soon.

They are expected to make their decision next Tuesday, but it is thought that at least some of them would take the chance to regain the whip if it was available. There were signs, however, that the hardliners might make demands that Mr Major would be unable to meet.

Tony Marlow, one of the nine, said that "instinctively I would tend to vote with the Opposition motion because I am opposed to government policy on Europe".

The arithmetic is daunting for Mr Major. The death of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn last weekend reduced his Commons majority to 12, even if the rebels are counted as being on board. At least two Tory MPs are too ill to come to the Commons, reducing that figure to ten. If the rebels are counted on the Opposition side the Government is in a minority of six.

The Prime Minister's decision caused a stir at Westminster last night. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, had been expected to open the debate for Labour, but it was swiftly announced that Tony Blair, the Labour leader, would do so instead.

One senior Cabinet minister admitted that it was unusual for the Prime Minister to open the debate but insisted that he had "every confidence" he would win.

THE PARTIES

Government forces

Conservative MPs	320

Opposition forces

Labour	270
Liberal Democrats	23
Ulster Unionists	9
Democratic Unionists	3
Others	12
Total	317

Undecided

Whipless Conservatives	9

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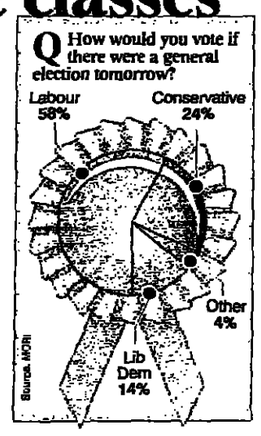
Middle classes revolt

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE middle classes have become increasingly gloomy about the economic outlook and are deserting the Tories on a record scale. The latest MORI poll for *The Times* highlights the Tories' problems among its traditional core supporters, as Tony Blair claimed last night that it is now Labour that speaks for Middle Income Britain.

Particularly worrying for the Government is the sharp decline in MORI's economic optimism index, now down to its lowest level since the autumn of 1992 after sterling was forced out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. This is despite the evidence of economic growth and falling unemployment, and reflects the recent further increase in interest rates, the patchiness of the housing market and worries about redundancies.

By far the biggest drop in economic optimism, and in support for the Tories, has occurred in the professional middle classes, previously their most loyal supporters. Labour now leads the Tories by 50 per cent to 30 among the middle classes.



Mr Blair highlighted this evidence of middle class anxiety and disillusion with the Tories to argue that Labour is on the side of homeowners, small businesses, those out of work or insecure in their jobs. Speaking in Bournemouth, he said Labour was now winning voters in the South. "It is Labour that speaks to Middle Income Britain".

Disillusioned Tory voters were, he said, "turning straight to Labour with no thought for a protest vote because we are once again speaking up for the majority".

The latest MORI poll shows that Labour has consolidated its lead over the Tories. The gap narrowed last month after the rows over public ownership and education.

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ADRIAN BROOKS

An egg-splattered French riot policeman faces strikers in Calais yesterday. Stones and bottles were also hurled.

French strikers blockade ferry ports

FROM JONATHON PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT IN CALAIS

STRIKING French seamen yesterday wrecked the travel plans of thousands of British holidaymakers with a blockade of Calais which forced Dover ferries to divert to Zeebrugge in Belgium.

As clashes between strikers and riot police grew, a British ferry had to turn back from Calais last night when crew members were pelted with firecrackers. Another ferry was stormed and occupied by French seamen and France's busiest ferry port was effectively at a standstill. With Brittany ports also closed, almost the entire French Channel coast was blockaded.

The day started with a violent struggle between 400 strikers and 200 French riot police at the harbour front in Boulogne. Bottles, stones and eggs were thrown as police responded with teargas.

British holidaymakers said they had been terrified by the strikers' tactics. Teresa Jones, 39, who was trying to get out of Calais with her husband Ian, 42, and two children, said: "They are putting people's lives at risk. Drunken yobs with fireworks is a nightmare combination."

The 48-hour strike, almost certain to bring more disorder today, is in protest at the use of 130 Polish sailors by Meridian, a small British ferry company. The French Government said last night it had appointed a mediator to negotiate between Meridian and the unions after talks broke down yesterday.

A heavy riot police presence at the Calais end of the Channel Tunnel kept Le Shuttle operating, but strikers may try to affect services by targeting the terminal today. The strike forced the French-crewed Brittany Ferries to halt sailings from Portsmouth and Plymouth. Sally Line stopped its Ramsgate-Dunkirk passenger service, and two of Stena Sealink's five Dover-Calais ships were not operating.

Stena Sealink and P&O European Ferries' ships were turned away from Calais and had to go to Zeebrugge. Last night Brittany Ferries said it would be operating services to St Malo and Roscoff sailings today. Ferry companies crossing the Straits of Dover said they would be making for Zeebrugge.

Leading article, page 19

Sacked manager 'took £425,000 in gifts'

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GEORGE GRAHAM, who was sacked as manager of Arsenal on Tuesday, received £425,500 commission for the transfer of two Scandinavian footballers to the London club, it emerged yesterday.

A Premier League commission of inquiry has decided that further action may be necessary, and has referred the matter to the Football Association. The FA is expected to announce next week if Graham, and possibly Arsenal, must face charges. One result of any charges could be a worldwide ban for the manager.

The inquiry investigated the transfers to Arsenal of John Jensen, from the Danish club Brondby, and Pal Lydersen, from Start, of Norway. Graham, 50, had his contract terminated by Arsenal once club officials had seen details of the commission's interim report, which was officially released yesterday.

Graham, who received the payments from Interclub Ltd, a Guernsey-based company in which Rune Hauge, the Norwegian football agent, has interests, was paid £140,500 in December 1991 for the Lydersen deal and £285,000 in August 1992 for the Jensen transfer.

A barrister for Mr Graham told the inquiry that his client insisted the sums "were not paid pursuant to any arrangement connected with the transfers, but were paid by the agent as a mark of his gratitude".

Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, said: "We have emphasised that George [Graham] has not been found guilty. There was a clear intention to separate the inquiry process from the disciplinary process." Any punishment has been left to the FA.

Graham condemned, page 44

Boy escapes hanging in Pakistan

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

SALAMAT MASIH, 14, a Pakistani Christian, was freed from death row last night after Lahore High Court overturned a blasphemy conviction for which he was to have been hanged.

The decision represents a humiliation for Islamic fundamentalists, who had sought to exploit Pakistan's vaguely-worded blasphemy laws.

The court ruled that there was no evidence that the boy and his co-accused scrawled blasphemous remarks on the wall of a mosque and threw paper bearing sacrilegious words into the building.

But Salamat will never be safe in his own country, and human rights organisations are trying to arrange a home for him abroad. Islamic extremists say he should be killed regardless of the court decision, and there are fears of a violent backlash against the country's Christians.

Boy freed, page 12

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES



MONEY GUIDE
Your A-Z of Peps. Plus: Weekend Money

WEEKEND
Narcissus complex: the man with 100,000 daffodils

CAR 95
The Jaguar that drives itself

MAGAZINE
The urban busybody, a blot on the rural landscape

VISION
Your 7-day TV and radio guide

The seven-section Times is 30p on Saturday

Fry 'spotted at Dunkirk'

Stephen Fry, the actor who vanished in "emotional turmoil" after quitting his two-man West End show, is believed to be on the Continent. He was spotted by two passengers on a ferry to France on Monday driving on to the harbour at Dunkirk. Fry had just sent letters to his parents, sister, brother and agent telling them that he was going away.....Page 3

British huskies die in Quebec

A fatal illness has struck the last surviving British huskies after they were taken from Antarctica to a town on the edge of Hudson Bay. Almost half the dogs have died after having been forced by an environmental treaty to leave their homes.....Page 7

MPs tell all

MPs are making even their most trivial interests public. Complimentary golf club memberships have been declared and gifts ranging from pots of honey to free parking are listed in the Register of Members' Interests....Page 11

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James Herriot, the world's most famous vet, dies



BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

JAMES HERRIOT, left, died yesterday aged 78 at his Thirsk home, in North Yorkshire, the town that served as the model for the fictional Darrowby in *All Creatures Great and Small*, the BBC television series based on his books.

Mr Herriot, the world's most famous vet whose real name was James Alfred Wight, had been ill with cancer of the prostate for about three years, but had issued instructions that the nature of his ailment should not be disclosed while he was alive. His daughter, Rosie Page, who works as a GP in Thirsk, said last night: "He was an extremely private man who did not like appearing in public, and he told us that he could not have borne the letters of sympathy that would have flooded in if his illness become widely known.

"Although he had a lot of problems and must have been in some pain, he managed to keep going almost to the end. He took to his bed only two days before his death."

Robert Hardy, the actor who played the eccentric senior partner, Siegfried Farnon, in the television series, said: "I am very sad.

"He was an enormous influence on 14 years of my life. He was a remarkably modest man, as well as an honest and honourable one.

"Although he made millions out of his books, he would never consider any tax-dodging device, such as going to live abroad. When we were making the series I used to see him about twice a year. He had much more control over what went

Continued on page 2, col 5
Obituary, page 21

Partners out of step in Catch-22 quango

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Sadly, there were no hymns. The Methodist Central Hall, however, was a quaintly appropriate venue. Yesterday morning Lord Nolan and his committee on "standards in public life" assembled there to wind up six weeks of evidence-gathering. I went along to watch.

Lord Nolan has one of those round, amiable, glowing faces that speak of Wright's Coal Tar soap and a vigorous towel-dry. With his hair parted in the middle and his sympathetic smile he reminds us of the chap on the front of Quaker Oats packets.

He was flanked yesterday by about three and a half pages' worth of *Who's Who*. As the Great Ones discussed the need to scoop public appointments from a more democratic pool, I cast my eye across their names. Not a single Mr! Two lords (both Rt Hon), two MPs (both Rt Hon and one of them a CH), three more knights, a dame, a professor and a lady styled "Diana Warwick".

It seems one of the committee's main concerns is with former ministers who go on to take City directorships. The reason for concern is simple. If a minister has hopes of a City appointment, is there not a danger that his ministerial decisions will be influenced by a desire to prepare his City nest? A minister who privatised a public utility and later took a place on its board might be criticised on these grounds. The Nolan committee has been set up to examine such questions, to recommend new guidelines and to suggest how these might be policed.

After reporting to the Prime Minister, the committee will become, for three years, a standing body, to pursue further tasks — whose scope will be shaped by their recommendations to the PM. They may also recommend new machinery to police the guidelines they have proposed. Members are being paid — perhaps not much: we do not know. Presumably the standing body into which the committee forms itself will be paid.

Presumably the wider its responsibilities and the more work it has to do, the more it will be paid. Presumably any new machinery it recommends will be run by paid appointees too. Presumably the more they are charged with doing, the better they will be paid.

I hate to mention this, but it surely cannot be envisaged that any of the present members of the Nolan committee could accept paid employment on the standing committee after they have reported? It would open them to the criticism (however unfair) that they could be tempted to use their present task to feather their nests in the next one.

And surely it cannot be envisaged that any of this committee should ever accept any post in any new machinery which it is their present job to recommend?

I raise the question because to watch the committee yesterday was to sense how, once a body like this has been set up, every pressure is upon it to conclude that something needs to be done. Otherwise, why would they have been set up? And the more they recommend should be done, the more valuable they will be judged to have been. Only Tom King yesterday questioned the need for action with any vigour.

I watched the committee cross-questioning a Labour MP, Tony Wright, who had written a pamphlet. Within seven minutes of his arrival he had proposed the establishment of a massive new body: the Public Service Appointments Commission.

This would be a quango. The Nolan committee was being asked to recommend it. One quango creating another quango to supervise more quangos. Perhaps the closing hymn should have been *Wider Still and Wider*.

'There has to be more to politics than the Orange and Green colour scheme'

Businessmen tell Unionists to focus on economic issues

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LEADING businessmen in Northern Ireland yesterday accused Unionist politicians who condemned the Anglo-Irish framework document of losing touch with opinion in the Province.

The businessmen warmly welcomed the document which, they said, would bring economic benefits. There has been a big upsurge in economic activity since the IRA and loyalist ceasefires.

Howard Hastings, operations director of Hastings Hotels, criticised the Ulster Unionists and the Democratic Unionists who dismissed the document within minutes of its publication on Wednesday. He said: "I don't hear a grassroots echo in what they are saying. I think on this occasion the Unionist politicians have lost touch with their constituencies — that is the first in a generation."

Mr Hastings, who said he was a Unionist and is chairman of the Institute of Directors in Northern Ireland, said the all-Ireland dimension of the document would help business. "There are areas of mutual economic benefit. For my business it would be better if a single tourist board marketed Ireland at the international level."

However, Mr Hastings added that his members would take their time to consider the document. Eric Cairns, who runs an estate agency in south Belfast and North Down, said John Major had emphasised that it was a discussion document. "It is akin to a draft contract. It is up to us to sort out the real contract." Mr Cairns called on Unionist leaders to consider the document with "cool heads and business acumen".

Mr Cairns added that politicians were out of touch with the business community. He said: "A Unionist MP asked me why people such as myself were not interested in politics. I said there had to be something more to politics than the traditional Orange and Green colour scheme. They should concentrate on the real issues such as creating jobs."

David Ervine, of the Progressive Unionist Party, which has links to the Ulster Volunteer Force, told the BBC yesterday that his members would consider the document, but would reject its proposals. Mr Ervine added that Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, had been right to say the document was "all Ireland in nature". He said: "It is and that is unacceptable to loyalists."

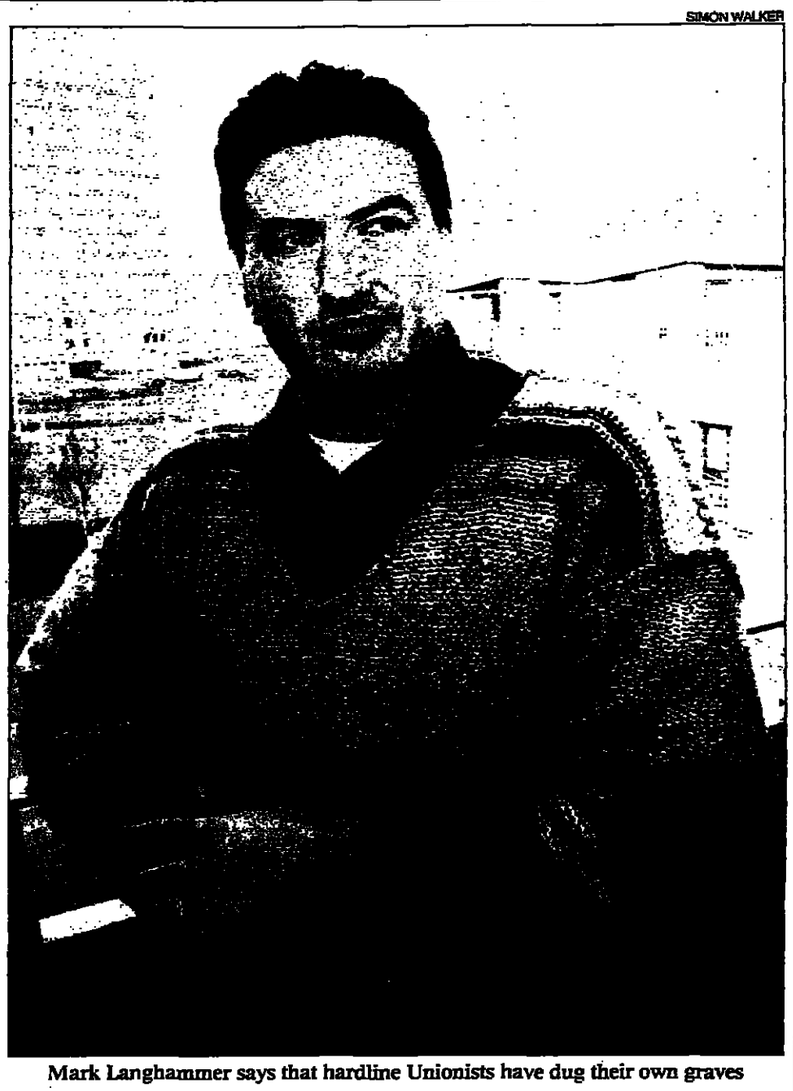
His comments contrasted with a more moderate tone adopted by the Ulster Democratic Party, which has links with the Ulster Defence Association. Gary McMichael, the leader of the UDP, said he would study the document carefully and would not be making any instant reactions.

Archbishop Robin Eames, the Primate of the Church of Ireland, praised the proposals as a "genuine effort" to tackle problems within the Province. His comments were echoed by Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland who said the document was a serious attempt to balance the aspirations of nationalists and Unionists.

The Irish Government said yesterday that it hoped that after a period of reflection, Unionists would give a more measured response to the document. Government sources in Dublin insisted that they remained optimistic, despite the Unionists' condemnation of the proposals.

Commons threat, page 1

SIMON WALKER



Mark Langhammer says that hardline Unionists have dug their own graves

The morning after, pensions take priority over politics

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SET amid an ugly council estate, its concrete walls besmirched by crude loyalist art, the sub-post office at Rathcoole, south Antrim, was doing brisk business yesterday. But the queue winding almost to the door was not for copies of the framework document which the Government would like every citizen of Northern Ireland to read: it was pension day.

The counter clerk had no idea when, or even if, copies might arrive. Anyone sufficiently interested to plough through its 40 close-written pages could read it in full in the *Belfast Telegraph*.

Two floors above the post office, in a flat converted to offices for a project for the long-term unemployed, who constitute up to a quarter of Rathcoole's adult male population, the *Telegraph* version was being scanned by the project manager, Mark Langhammer. He is a considerable rarity in these parts; Northern Ireland's only Labour councillor, representing the mixed Macedon ward on Newtownabbey Borough Council for two years.

Mr Langhammer welcomes the document but is in no doubt about its underlying message. "British policy has always been to keep Northern Ireland at arm's length: now London is telling the Province that it is a visitor in the house, and it would rather the visitor went out and found a house of its own."

Hardline unionists opposed to the drift of the tide have only themselves to blame, Mr Langhammer believes. "The document is a logical working-out of the Unionist rejection of British politics. They have, over recent years, dug their own grave."

Catholics, he believes, will give the document closer consideration than loyalists, and not only because there is much in it to please them. "The two communities have entirely different dynamics. Catholics have a web of civil organisations and points of contact at which the document will be discussed. Among the Protestants, any kind of civil community is largely extinct."

Mr Langhammer says there now needs to be a change in the texture of Dublin politics if Northern Ireland is to live in closer co-operation with the South. "The Church-State issue in the Republic has still to be resolved; we are back to first principles as we were in 1920."

Most shades of opinion are agreed that they have no wish to return to the rule of the gun. Jim Rooney, who has sat for the Alliance on Newtownabbey council for 18 years, representing a mixed Protestant-Catholic ward, welcomes the document, although not necessarily the legalistic writing style. He says: "I hope it succeeds because it will give us the bonus of peace. Give a little and you get peace. Give nothing and there will be a big question mark over the future."

Major rejects criticism of £1.2bn gas profits

BY JAMES LANDALE AND ROSS TIEMAN

JOHN MAJOR defended pre-tax profits of £1,245 million announced by British Gas yesterday, declaring: "I much prefer profits to losses."

The Prime Minister rejected Tony Blair's assertion that the profits, equal to nearly £40 a second, represented "the unacceptable face of privatisation". He said that since the company was privatised prices for domestic consumers had fallen by more than 20 per cent in real terms.

During a rowdy exchange in the Commons, the Labour leader claimed that gas prices had in fact risen in real terms since 1979 and would continue to rise. He asked the Prime Minister if he would agree with the director of the Gas Consumers' Council that "while the City may view the billion pound profits of British Gas as reasonable, consumers may take a different view?"

Mr Major replied: "I much prefer profits to losses, provided there is a good service to customers and provided the price is right." He said that nationalised industries that used to cost taxpayers £50 million a week, now provided useful revenue to the Treasury. The profit announcement came amid fresh allegations about share options granted to Cedric Brown, British Gas chief executive, and other directors. Mr Brown rejected suggestions that a new bonus scheme could allow him to double his salary, already increased by 75 per cent to £475,000 a year since January. He said no decision on the scheme, based on performance over five years, had been made.

Gas in control, page 23

Ancient counties spared

BY IAN MURRAY

BEDFORDSHIRE and Buckinghamshire have been saved after campaigns led by Lord Carrington and Lord Pym. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, will tell Parliament next week that he has decided to overturn proposals by the Local Government Commission to divide the ancient counties into seven all-purpose unitary authorities.

He is granting autonomy to Milton Keynes and Luton, which will become unitary authorities. The rest of the two counties will continue under the current two-tier system.

James Herriot dies at 78

Continued from page 1

into the series at the beginning. But when the BBC had exhausted all his stories, his influence declined."

John Crooks, past president of the British Veterinary Association, who worked as Mr Herriot's assistant in Thirsk, said: "He was superb to work with and a wonderful teacher."

☐ Paul Heiney, farmer, *Times* columnist and devoted Herriot fan, writes: "Eh-bah-gum vet-erin-ary. Where's thah bin?" If you ever read James Herriot or watched the television adaptation of his books, you know the scene: the harassed vet has bravely chugged up the Dale in his Austin to be confronted by a sickly cow and a grumpy farmer. Without hesitation, Herriot will strip to the waist and have the entire length of his arm inserted in the cow before the stockman can utter another grumble.

None of this was imagined; and it is still as much a part of everyday life for a vet as it was when Herriot was young. It is a scene that is re-enacted on our farm with amazing regularity. The question is, why did accounts of such grisly practices become bestsellers?

Probably because Herriot created a new kind of hero. Until he started to record his experiences, no one gave a second thought to the work of a rural vet who struggled daily with every sort of animal from boisterous bulls to pampered poodles, and with their equally tricky owners. He told his tales without sentimentality, never flinching from recording life as it really was on small farms. And he has left us a fine record of the closing days of an agricultural era, in a time when the loss of a single cow could mean ruin.

Vets admire Herriot, too. Our own farm vet, Philip Ryder-Davies, said last night: "To those of us who believe that being a vet is as much an art as a science, he was our hero. I remember one story where he goes up to a farmer to ask about a cow he has been treating. 'It's no better,' says the farmer. That's great. He was not afraid to admit that vets sometimes fail."

Obituary, page 21

Families given warning on costs of care

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has reaffirmed that old and chronically sick patients are not automatically entitled to long-term care on the NHS. Under new guidelines published yesterday, many patients who have been cared for in long-stay hospital wards could now be forced into private nursing homes for which they or their families will have to pay.

The guidelines were immediately attacked by the British Medical Association as signalling the end of the "cradle to grave" NHS. The rules specify that there is no automatic right to long-term care on the NHS. Many patients will be told that they will have to find places in nursing homes.

Ministers want to set clearer limits to NHS care as increasing number of elderly people stretch limited funds. Families may have to find the money to care for elderly relatives from their own resources and many middle aged children of elderly parents may see their expected legacy disappear in private nursing home fees.

The move follows concern over cases in which chronically ill patients have been discharged from NHS hospitals to private nursing homes leaving their families to pay for their care.

In a case last year the NHS ombudsman severely criticised Leeds General Infirmary after it discharged a 55-year-old man who was profoundly brain damaged by a stroke to a private nursing home, leaving his wife to pay £6,000 a year towards the fees.

After the Leeds case, health authorities were instructed to review their provision of long-term care. Many have closed long-stay beds to shift patients into nursing homes for which the NHS does not pay.

Local health authorities have been asked to draw up definitions of who is entitled to what, which is expected to lead to regional differences in provision.

People who require weekly supervision by a consultant or specialist nurse, have an unstable condition or who "are likely to die in the very near future" will qualify for NHS care. Families faced with huge nursing home bills when a chronically ill relative is denied NHS care will have a new right of appeal. The arrangements will come into force on April 1, 1996.

Announcing the guidelines John Bowis, a junior Health Minister, said they would help clarify when a patient moves from NHS to social services responsibility.

He said it would continue to be a clinical decision when a patient needed an NHS bed. There had never been a right to occupy an NHS bed indefinitely, he said.

Alan Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, said the "significant majority" of those requiring care in a nursing home will have to depend on means-tested social services.

Challenge to courts martial launched

The Human Rights court in Strasbourg yesterday cleared the way for a soldier to challenge Britain's system of courts martial. Alexander Findlay, 34, a Scots Guardsman, began a test case claiming that the system is unfair and neither independent nor impartial.

His case is the first of a dozen being considered by the European Commission of Human Rights. Findlay was sentenced to two years' jail and court-martialled after threatening members of his unit with a gun while serving in Northern Ireland in 1990.

Intruder shot

Latham Nottingham, 76, a retired smallholder who shot a burglar after his isolated house in Potterhanworth Booths, Lincolnshire, was broken into and his bolted bedroom door was kicked down, will not be prosecuted, police said. Three people were arrested.

Inquest on MP

Mike Carr, the Labour MP for Bootle, died of natural causes in July 1990, an inquest jury in Liverpool decided. An earlier inquest was halted when the coroner sent files to the DPP concerning treatment by Walton Hospital of Mr Carr, who died from a heart attack.

MoD windfall

THE Ministry of Defence has underspent its budget for the current financial year by £600 million, according to figures to be released by the Treasury today. Under three-year-old rules the ministry will be able to carry the windfall through to the next financial year.

Murder charge

The stepfather of a 15-year-old babysitter who was found stabbed to death with her seven-year-old charge in Bradford was last night charged with the double murder. Tariq Rehman, 34, an insurance company branch manager, will appear before Bradford magistrates today.

Boat men sacked

Four volunteer lifeboatmen have been sacked after a rescue operation was launched for them during a charity crossing of the Irish Sea. They had failed to tell the Royal National Life-boat Institution of a change to their route and had failed to take a back-up boat.

Dalton wins libel

Timothy Dalton, who starred in the remake of *Gone with the Wind*, won substantial damages against the *Daily Express* over allegations that he said the sequel was so bad it would ruin his career. Dalton, 49, known for his role as James Bond, will give the money to a charity.

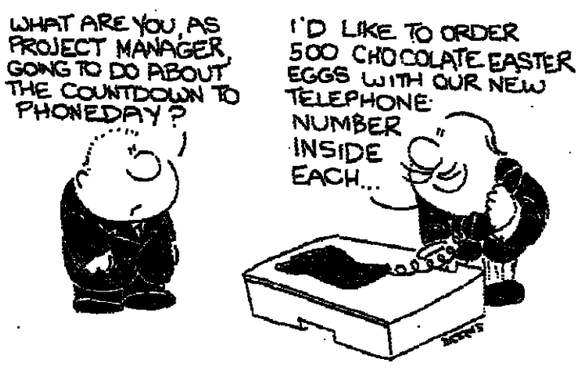
Film released

Oliver Stone's controversial and violent film *Natural Born Killers* is released in 210 cinemas today after a two-month delay. The British Board of Film Classification has made a number of cuts in the film, which portrays a couple on a killing spree in the American southwest.

Peter Bradley

A report (January 21) about Conservative objections to a social housing development in Camden could have created the impression that Peter Bradley, deputy leader of Westminster Labour group, who acted as a consultant to the scheme, might have been party to a political agenda to increase the number of Labour voters in a marginal ward. We accept that such a suggestion would be without foundation and regret any embarrassment to Mr Bradley.

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Father says disappearance followed months of unhappiness with press

Stephen Fry is spotted on ferry to France

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

STEPHEN FRY, the actor who vanished in "emotional turmoil" after quitting his West End show, is believed to be on the Continent after being spotted by two passengers on a ferry to France on Monday.

He was last seen driving on to the harbour at Dunkirk. Fry had just sent letters to his parents, sister, brother, agent and Simon Gray, the author of *Cell Mates*, the play in which he co-starred, telling them that he was going away.

His disappearance followed months of unhappiness about his treatment at the hands of the press. Fry's father Alan, 64, an electronics inventor, said from his home in Booton, Norfolk: "He was feeling the world at large was a bit agin him."

The actor was particularly hurt at the recycling by newspapers of incidents from his wayward youth: that he was expelled from public school and that, aged 17, he committed credit card fraud, spending three months in jail on remand before being given two years' probation. "It's a long time ago," Mr Fry said. "People don't take the trouble to say, 'Look Stephen, what are you actually thinking about now?' and write about it."

Fry has said that, aged 17, he swallowed "as many pills as I could find" after an argument with his father. Mr Fry said yesterday: "It is going too far to say that he tried to commit suicide. He was very young and it was very silly. We have all got total faith in him. He loves life too much, he has got too much to offer. He will be back. The sad thing about not being able to contact him is that I can't say 'I love you'."

Particularly hurtful, according to Fry's sister Joanna Foster, was an article by Geoffrey Wheatcroft in the *Daily Mail* in September 1994 headlined: "Wouldn't you just love to biff Stephen Fry?" It followed the conviction for assault and affray of two brothers who attacked a man who defended Fry from their taunts during an Uppingham School reunion. Wheatcroft described the actor as "simply the most irritating man in the country".

Ms Foster said yesterday: "It was a bit of a shock. He thought he was doing the best by people and doing the best he possibly could and it's just a bit sad to read that that's what people really thought of him."

Her brother had not left in a fit of pique after unfavourable critical notices. "They weren't that bad," she said. "It wasn't just those. Just a combination of quite a lot of things: overwork, a lot of pressure for the last six months, especially a lot of nasty things being written about him that at the end of the day he's just said, 'I've had enough'."

The cast of *Cell Mates* sent a message of support to the actor last night. David Bownes, company and stage manager at the Albery Theatre in St Martin's Lane, said: "Through the media we all send our love and best wishes and hope to see him home soon. We just want him to know we are there if he needs us. We care for you and want you to know we are here for you."

Rik Mayall, Fry's co-star, said before last night's performance: "We are all genuinely concerned and worried for his whereabouts and hope he gets in touch soon."

Thursday, February 16, was press night for *Cell Mates*. Fry's parents and his sister were in the audience. They visited his dressing room for congratulations afterwards and joined the first night party at the Groucho Club, where Fry was in ebullient mood.

The next day, first press notices for the show were mixed. Fry telephoned to cancel a lunch appointment with his parents. The actor said he had to join Mayall for a radio interview.

On Saturday Fry's father telephoned to thank him for the party but the answering machine was on. Fry was performing a matinée and evening show. More press notices, still mixed.

The answering machine was left on at Fry's home in Islington, north London, on Sunday. Fry spent his evening narrating *Peter and the Wolf* at St Mary's Church, north London. Although he had no links with the church, he agreed to perform free in aid of its restoration fund and the Children's Society.

On Monday two passengers on a Ramsgate-Dunkirk ferry recognised the actor on a morning sailing. Viv Launchbury, 24, of Swansea, said Fry was first in the queue for the restaurant breakfast. He sat alone reading newspapers.



Stephen Fry with his father Alan, who is convinced that his son will be back with much to offer. "He was feeling the world at large was a bit agin him"

Critics refuse to take blame for unexpected exit

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THEATRE critics expressed concern and surprise last night at Stephen Fry's sudden decision to withdraw from the West End play *Cell Mates*, not least because most felt the criticism in their reviews to be relatively mild.

While the *London Evening Standard* described Fry's portrayal of George Blake, the Soviet spy, as an "impersonation of a superior manservant" and *The Sunday Telegraph* implied that his performance was not heartfelt, not one paper actually panned the play or its actors. Some critics were astounded, too, that Fry, known for his unflappable and gentlemanly demeanour, should have let down his co-star, Rik Mayall, the production team, and his audiences.

Jack Tinker, theatre critic of the *Daily Mail* and author of the most positive review of *Cell Mates*, said that Fry's mysterious departure was "the most extraordinary thing to happen to the English theatre in years". "Stephen has an actor with wonderful capacity, but he is also an exceptionally sensitive man with great fragility."

He added that Fry's recent criticisms of the press may have acted as a provocation to some journalists. "I thought it was peculiar that he virtually likened newspapers to used toilet paper. Even an idiot — and goodness knows he is not an idiot — will know that you are going to provoke a backlash by saying things like that."

In a recent interview Fry said that being a critic was the worse thing for a human being to be. "Professionally to pick up a pen and make someone cry, however necessary you deem it to be — and people do cry — you may say boo-hoo, poor little wimp, well, yes, you can say that if you want, but I wouldn't want to say that about someone who's crying."

Benedict Nightingale of *The Times*, who wrote that Fry's Blake was "a simpler, slicker monster than Marx and nature surely produced", said yesterday: "It has been said that theatre criticism is the last of the blood sports, but it is not like that. We have to take care not to be gratuitously offensive to actors, but we also have a duty to record what we see and what we thought of it."

Nicholas de Jongh, of the *London Evening Standard* and the most vicious reviewer of Fry's performance, said he felt no responsibility for his disappearance. "If every time an actor got negative reviews he or she disappeared, then the world would be packed with collapsed actors."

He conceded, however, that the role of Blake was difficult and needed someone with more experience of dramatic roles. Fry may also have been upset by early reaction to the television comedy *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*.



Rik Mayall: co-starring with Fry in *Cell Mates*

KGB defector dies after 24 years spent in hiding

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER KGB spy who became one of MI5's most spectacular defectors has died after spending more than two decades at secret addresses in Britain.

Oleg Lyalin, whose defection in 1971 led to the expulsion of 105 Soviet "diplomats" from Britain, was helping MI5 as a paid employee until he died. After Mr Lyalin exposed the huge network of Soviet spies working in Britain, the KGB apparatus in this country never fully recovered.

Oleg Kalugin, a former chief of counter-intelligence and a KGB major-general, disclosed in his memoirs *Spymaster* last year that there had been a contract on Mr Lyalin's life. According to Mr Kalugin, Yuri Andropov, head of the KGB from 1967 to 1982 before becoming Soviet leader, sanctioned Mr Lyalin's execution.

After his defection in August 1971, Mr Lyalin and his Russian wife Irina had led a clandestine life, never emerging from the shadows even when the Cold War was over. Adopting a new life created for him by MI5, he lived under an assumed name in a part of the country where no one recognised him or guessed his past. MI5 is taking every precaution to ensure that, even after his death, his relatives are not revealed.

He died aged 57. Security sources declined to give the circumstances of his death, other than to confirm that he had been in ill health.

Mr Lyalin came to the notice of the Security Service when he began a secret affair with his secretary. Approached by MI5, he offered to defect immediately with her.

His MI5 case officers persuaded him to remain "in place" and he was able to supply valuable information about KGB undercover missions at the Soviet embassy and the trade delegation, where he had been an official. His role as a double agent came to an abrupt end when he was arrested by police for drunken driving in Tottenham Court Road in August 1971. A KGB officer turned up in court to pay Mr Lyalin's bail but already the charges had been dropped and he was in the hands of MI5.

An expert marksman and parachutist, Mr Lyalin was a member of the infamous Department V, set up under Andropov's direct authority to prepare contingency plans for assassination and sabotage in the event of war. Mr Lyalin revealed that Department V's wartime plans in Britain included assassinating political leaders, flooding the London Underground and blowing up military installations. Mr Kalugin said that the sabotage would have been co-ordinated by Mr Lyalin and carried out by Soviet agents.

A number of other former KGB officers who defected to Britain are still being protected by MI5.

Obituary, page 21

Man who fell on icy step wins £100,000 payout

BY BILL FROST

A VACUUM cleaner engineer who hurt his back after slipping on an icy step was awarded more than £100,000 damages yesterday against the couple who called him out. Stefan and Dawn Kerwin had failed to salt the frozen steps at their home despite knowing he was about to arrive, Winchester High Court was told.

Philip Marsh, 43, suffered a chronic lumbar ligament strain and has not worked since the accident four years ago. Giving judgment, Mr Justice Buckley said: "Freezing rain just before Mr Marsh arrived had made the steps slippery. Temperatures at the time were below zero and the Kerwins knew the steps could be a hazard in freezing conditions.

"It was known that a service engineer was expected and the precautions of putting salt down or shouting a warning should have been taken. This was a breach of common duty of care by the householder."

The court was told that Mr Marsh was wearing "sensible shoes" when he walked on to the top step at the house in Bournemouth. "He thought the step looked wet, although grass around was white with frost," the judge said. "He slipped on black ice and must be 20 per cent liable for the accident."

The Kerwins, however, had to bear the major responsibility. The judge accepted that both Mr Kerwin and his wife, who was pregnant at the time, had negotiated the steps earlier without mishap. But, he said, "they knew the dangers and should have taken action to make the steps safe".

Mr Marsh, of Charminster, Bournemouth, who earned £12,500 a year, had claimed damages for negligence. He said after the ruling that he intended to use some of the £102,131 award to pay off his mortgage, but "would give it all away to be fit again and have my job back".

Mr Marsh said: "The money doesn't make up for the pain I have gone through for the last four years. I am in pain most of the time and have take a lot of pain killers.

"There is always a chance that I will get more work, so I keep on sending off applications. But it depends on what I can cope with and whether an employer will ever be prepared to take me on."

Ray Betts, a London insurance broker, last night said that premiums could rise if such awards became commonplace. "We are following the American trend where even the smallest incident can result in a claim and a court case. If this current trend continues it will be reflected in higher premiums."

He added: "As long as the householders have contents insurance it is likely that their insurance policy will cover them. It should not cost them a penny."

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Loyalists admit 'trick or treat' murders

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Barrister clashes with judge over time off for funeral

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR judge and a former Bar Council chairman were involved in a personal clash in the Court of Appeal yesterday after the judge refused to adjourn a case so that the QC could arange his father's funeral.

Anthony Scrivener QC angrily refused to agree to the suggestion by Lord Justice Russell that he should leave the court and allow junior counsel to continue the appeal of a man convicted of a double murder. Mr Scrivener said that instead he would not attend his father's funeral. The QC eventually won a two-day adjournment of the appeal, but only after a heated ten-minute exchange.

The appeal is by Benjamin Laing, 27, who is challenging his conviction for the murders of Alison Manwaring, a bank clerk, and her father Matthew at Barking, Essex, in 1992.

At the outset, Lord Justice Russell told Mr Scrivener that the court was sorry to hear of his loss, but added that the Laing case had overrun its two-day estimate and other cases had already been taken off the court list.

Mr Scrivener said the time estimate was three days and had not been overrun. The judge was clearly taken aback when the QC said: "You are asking in a murder case for me to pass the brief to a junior who is not equipped to do it and not had access to the papers. It is grossly unjust. I will not permit it."



Scrivener: eventually won an adjournment

Lord Justice Russell, sitting with Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Hooper, said he was sad that the QC had used those sentiments but Mr Scrivener replied: "I hope they go home, my lord." He added: "I will not go to my father's funeral. I cannot leave a defendant in a murder case in this situation."

The judge again said the court was "desperately sad" over the QC's bereavement and added: "Please don't hold pistols to my head."

Mr Scrivener, 59 and an only child, had told the court that he had received a telephone call at 8pm on Wednesday telling him that his 84-year-old father, Frank, had died at his home in Canterbury. He had rung Lord Justice Russell's clerk at home asking for an adjournment.

He said to the 68-year-old judge: "I understand your lordship was not willing to grant an adjournment at that stage and I now make a formal application." He had no family in Canterbury to help and "I don't want to leave the matter to the next-door neighbours".

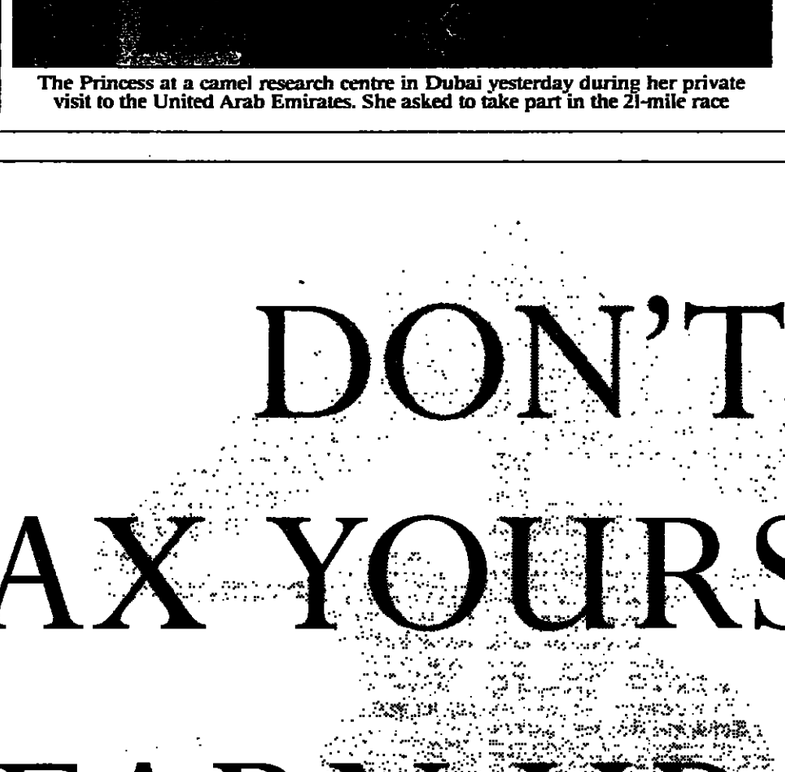
Mr Scrivener said the case had not overrun its time limit, but time had been lost on Monday morning because there was no advance warning that "your lordship did not understand the case". The judge replied that it was not that the court did not understand the case, "we did not have the necessary assistance from the papers".

He added: "Our job, Mr Scrivener, in difficult circumstances, is to endeavour to do justice to all. I am sad to hear you are saying it was somehow the court's responsibility that time was lost on Monday."

After a brief retirement, the judges returned and Lord Justice Russell said: "In the light of what you have told us we don't think we should continue with the case today or tomorrow. We don't think it would be fair to you or your client." He ordered the hearing to continue on Monday, telling Mr Scrivener: "I am sorry the atmosphere became as it was. I expect we forgive each other."

Mr Scrivener replied: "I am sorry, my lord. I was very upset."

Law Report, page 32



The Princess at a camel research centre in Dubai yesterday during her private visit to the United Arab Emirates. She asked to take part in the 21-mile race

Princess to ride in tough desert race

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE Princess Royal will compete today in a gruelling horse race lasting up to two hours across the sands of Dubai. She will be one of the few women ever to take part in the event, racing against dozens of Arab riders over a 21-mile course.

The Princess has been invited to participate in the Desert Challenge Endurance Race after making a request on a private visit to the United Emirate states. Another competitor is Shaikh Mohamed al-Maktoum, the millionaire racehorse owner and breeder.

The Princess, who arrived in Dubai on Wednesday evening, is expected to do well in the race across rugged terrain in temperatures of up to 27C (80F). Neil Abrahams, racing secretary of the United Arab Emirates Equestrian and Racing Federation, said that the race, which takes place about three times a year, was scheduled to coincide with the royal visit after the Princess expressed an interest in attempting the course.



She will ride a five-year-old chestnut gelding called Ke-or, believed to belong to one of the daughters of Shaikh Mohamed, who will ride his own nine-year-old gelding. He is one of the world's leading racehorse owner-breeders and has hundreds of horses in training throughout Europe. The shaikh owns a stud farm at Newmarket and has bred several classic winners.

The race has been run informally for several years but has been officially organised only for the past two. Mr Abrahams said: "It is a gruelling course. You have to be fit and you certainly have to be a good rider. However, the Princess is a very accomplished horsewoman and I think she may well win." The Princess returns to Britain tomorrow.



Russell: claimed that the case had overrun

Loyalists admit 'trick or treat' murders

FOUR loyalists admitted yesterday that they carried out the Hallowe'en murders of eight customers at the Rising Sun bar in Greysteel, Co Londonderry.

Belfast Crown Court was told that Stephen Irwin, 24, and Jeffrey Deeney, 23, both of Londonderry, sprayed the inside of the bar with gunfire. Torrens Knight, 24, kept guard outside and Brian McNeill, 26, of Londonderry, drove the getaway car.

The men had initially denied the charges, but changed their pleas yesterday. They will be sentenced today.

The court was told that Irwin shouted "Trick or treat" before opening fire with an AK47 assault rifle. He fired 45 shots. Deeney, who gave Irwin cover, fired only once before his gun jammed. The attack in 1993 was supposedly in retaliation for an IRA bomb that killed nine Protestants in Belfast.

Knight, of Macosquin, Co Londonderry, also admitted his part in the murder of four Catholic workmen who were shot by the Ulster Freedom Fighters in Castlerock, Co Londonderry, in 1993.

☐ A police spy who informed on his IRA gang to the RUC Special Branch was jailed for six years yesterday for two crimes he had kept secret from his handlers.

Declan "Beano" Casey, 40, originally from the Co Tyrone border town of from Strabane, Co Tyrone, pleaded guilty at Belfast Crown Court to a total of six charges involving the possession of guns and explosives on two separate dates in October 1990 and September 1992.

Lottery cash executive quits after two weeks

THE man charged with handing out £150 million of National Lottery funds to the sports world has resigned after two weeks in the £60,000 post (Andrew Pierce writes).

Last October Michael Barron resigned "in the interest of the service" from his post as chief executive at Gordon District Council with a £64,000 golden handshake and a £20,000 annual pension. He had taken 19 weeks' sick leave in the previous year. He also negotiated a £20,000 annual pension.

Mr Barron, 53, claimed last night that he had been forced out as director of the National Lottery Unit at the Sports Council. In a statement he said: "I felt I was best to think of my own present good health and family obligations." There had been "sustained pressure and criticism as to my taking up a full-time post having accepted a retiral package from Gordon District Council".

Last night the Sports Council, which had been in contact with the personnel department of the local authority about Mr Barron's absence record, refused to discuss the reasons for his departure. "I can confirm he has resigned. He has already relinquished his post and gone," a spokesman said.

☐ The logo for the National Lottery scratch card game Instants was unveiled yesterday. The Instants logo will appear at even more outlets than the crossed fingers symbol for the on-line game, Camelot said. The game, with prizes of up to £10,000, is expected to be launched next month.

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'Absurd' green campaign blamed for deaths of dogs that posed no threat to wildlife

Illness kills British huskies forced to leave Antarctic

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A FATAL illness has struck the last surviving British huskies after they were taken from Antarctica to the town of Inukjuak on the edge of Hudson Bay in northern Quebec.

Almost half the dogs have died, having been forced by an environmental treaty to leave their homes. The deaths have been linked with an infection to which the huskies, born and bred on the southern continent's remote frozen wastes, had no resistance.

John Hall, of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, said yesterday that obtaining details on the deaths had proved difficult because few of the Inuit among whom the dogs had been living spoke English. "But we think it might be a viral infection," he said. "We gave them multi-shot jabs and rabies jabs, but our dogs have never been in contact with anything at all because they have been isolated in Antarctica."

Mr Hall, who had found Inuit homes for the dogs, said that the deaths had caused distress among scientists and researchers at the survey's Rothera base in Antarctica and at the Cambridge headquarters. The huskies are descended from dogs brought to Antarctica by the British in 1945 to support Operation Tabarin, a mission to monitor German ships.

The survey had fought a long battle to keep the dogs in Antarctica where they have pulled sleds and provided vital companionship for scientists and explorers.

The survey had believed that the dogs, which were from original Canadian stock, offered no threat to seals and other wildlife and should be exempt from the treaty, which bans alien species. However, the Foreign Office, under pressure from Australia and the environmental campaign group Greenpeace, said they had to go.



Sir Vivian: wrong to have moved dogs

Sir Vivian Fuchs, the veteran Antarctic explorer, who has fond memories of huskies, believes the dogs that have died are victims of misplaced environmentalist zeal. "This would not have happened if they had been left in Antarctica. They die of old age there, not infections. It is a great pity," Sir Vivian said. "I sincerely hope that when some sense comes to the international community, huskies will be allowed back in the future. The problem is some people get the bit between their teeth a make a good cause absurd."

The 1945 expedition led to the establishment of the British Antarctic Survey, which has since bred huskies brought from Canada and Greenland.

During the past half-century there were as many as a hundred British-owned huskies but in recent years numbers have dwindled to 14.

Australia and Argentina, who also had husky packs in Antarctica, pulled out their dogs first to meet the treaty's rules. The British huskies sent to Canada were the last ones left in Antarctica.

The last 14 dogs were airlifted from Antarctica to the United States via the Falkland Islands and Heathrow a year ago and were split into two groups. Mr Hall said that seven had made the final journey to the Inuit village pulling sleds.

Of these one, Wendy, has since died. "She was pregnant. This was particularly unfortunate," Mr Hall said.

The other group of six, older dogs, were flown to the village. Three males, Roy, Max and Rex, have since died, as have Pris, a female, and Jimmy. Another female, Rachel, has been moved south to a small holding.

The deaths are also believed to have distressed the villagers who greeted their arrival with cheers and sobs of joy. Huskies disappeared from the area some years ago after an outbreak of distemper and the arrival of snowmobiles.

The Inuit are keen to restore their traditional way of life and the British, purebred, huskies were considered to be an important part of this plan.

The last 14 huskies left Rothera Base on February 22, 1994. One dog was put down in the Falklands with severe arthritis.

The remaining 13 arrived at Heathrow on March 15 and were taken to Boston by plane the next day.

Seven huskies then went by road and sled to Montreal arriving in Inukjak on April 28. The six other dogs were flown into the village a few days later.



JOHN SWEENY

Rachel and Elwood, two of the British Antarctic Survey's dogs descended from huskies introduced in 1945

GPs' contracts prevent patients from buying cheaper drugs

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

HUNDREDS of prescription-only medicines cost less than the new NHS prescription charge of £5.25, which comes into force on April 1. Patients could save money by buying them over the counter or on private prescriptions, but legal uncertainties and a disagreement between the BMA and the Health Department over the wording of GPs' contracts is preventing many from benefiting.

The Consumers' Association has produced a list of more than 700 over-the-counter medicines and 350 prescription-only drugs that cost less than the current prescription charge of £4.75. They include painkillers, antibiotics, skin creams, asthma inhalers and antidepressants. There will be even more when the charge goes up.

Dr Patrick Hoyte, medico-legal adviser to the Medical Defence Union, said: "There are now a tremendous number of drugs which cost less than the prescription charge. When I was in Norfolk last summer I wrote myself a private prescription for penicillin and it cost only 50p at the chemist." He sees no legal reason why more doctors should not write private prescriptions for their patients in cases where it would cost them less.

A private prescription is simply a note from a doctor to any pharmacist authorising the sale of prescription-only drugs to the patient. Patients are allowed a private or an NHS prescription, but not both, so need to work out in advance which will be cheaper.

Dr Hoyte added: "Our advice is that it is perfectly acceptable for doctors to do this in cases where the patient would otherwise have to pay prescription charges." In practice about 80 per cent of prescriptions are free because the patient is in an exempt category.

Dr Hoyte also believes it is proper for doctors not to issue prescriptions at all in the case of over-the-counter medicines costing less than the charge, instead advising patients to go to the chemist and buy the drug directly. But the BMA disagrees, arguing that the GPs' contract does not allow this discretion.

The contract says that doctors "shall order any drug or appliance for the patient . . . by issuing to that patient a prescription form". The BMA argues that this obliges doctors to issue a prescription and that a doctor failing to do so might be open to legal challenge. The association has asked for "shall" to be replaced by "may", but the Health Department has so far declined.

Dr Richard Tiner, a Taunton GP and a member of the BMA's prescribing sub-committee, said the change would clarify the position. "We want to be able to provide our patients with medicines at the lowest possible cost. It's a simple change but until it's made we fear that strictly speaking we could be in breach of our terms of service."

The Consumers' Association says private prescriptions will only produce a saving if doctors do not charge for issuing them and pharmacists' dispensing fees are low. Savings may be small unless the patient is taking medicines regularly, in which case an NHS "season ticket" may be a better bet.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Victoria to rule the waves at last

P&O is to rename its liner *Sea Princess* the *Victoria*. In 1935 a great liner almost bore the name when Cunard asked George V if it could name the ship "after England's most illustrious Queen". The king misunderstood and, not thinking of his grandmother, replied that his wife Mary would be delighted.

The 27,000-tonne *Victoria* will carry 700 passengers round the Mediterranean, Aegean, Black Sea, Red Sea and Caribbean.

'Sex' couple win

Michael Tucker, 40, and Barbara Wilson, 24, sacked by TSB bank in Newport after a cleaner claimed she saw them having sex on a desk, have each been awarded £10,882 after winning their claim for unfair dismissal.

Smuggler jailed

John Delaney, 45, of Wadhurst, East Sussex, was jailed for 14 years at the Old Bailey for smuggling £1 million of cocaine into Britain hidden in coconuts. His son, Chadwick, 25, was jailed for 11 years.

Back-seat driver

Darren Phillips, 27, was cleared of drink-driving, despite failing a breath test, after Gloucester magistrates heard that his girlfriend, Louise Howe, had been controlling the moped they were riding from the pillion seat.

High tee

A Scottish golf course has lost by 13 feet its claim to be the highest in Britain. The Lead Hills course in Lanarkshire has been ousted by the West Moo Golf Club at Nantyglo in Gwent, where the 14th tee is 1,513ft above sea level.

Call of the past

Visitors to York are to be taken on walks around lavatories ancient and modern by Caught Short Tours. Dr Andrew Jones, an archaeologist, said that the tours would help visitors interested in the past to learn about everyday life.



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Howard proposes independent body on injustice cases

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is proposing to set up an independent organisation to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice and to refer cases to the Court of Appeal, Michael Howard announced yesterday.

The measure would end the Home Office's involvement in dealing with alleged wrongful convictions, a move demanded by many of the Home Secretary's predecessors. The creation of the Criminal Cases Review Commission is expected to produce a flood of applications from alleged victims of miscarriages. Home Office officials predict that the number of applications will more than double to 1,460 in the organisation's first year, eventually declining to about 700.

Ministers hope the commission, expected to be operational next year, will restore confidence in a criminal justice system damaged by a series of wrongful convictions, including those of the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six and Judith Ward.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, welcomed the move. "The proposed Criminal Cases Review Commission, as a body entirely independent both of Government and of the courts, will be best placed to examine cases in which defendants, the public or indeed the judiciary have real grounds to suspect a miscarriage of justice may have occurred," he said.

However, there was criticism from other quarters over the Government's failure to provide the commission with its own investigation team; it will continue to rely on the police to enquire into wrongful convictions. Mr Howard said it would not have been practical for the new body to have its own team. The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, which recommended the creation of an independent commission, had said there was no practical alternative to the police. He had considered a separate team but, he said, "It makes more sense to have police carry out investigations. It may not be the same police force who investigated the original matter. The police have an excellent track record in this area."

Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, who campaigned for the release of the Birmingham Six, welcomed the new organisation but gave warning that the Government's failure to provide it with an independent investigation arm would prove a "fatal flaw". The commission, which will take over work done by the C3 department at the Home Office, will have an annual budget of £4.3 million and a staff of 60. There will be at least 11 members of the commission, appointed for five years by Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. A third of members must have a legal qualification, with the rest divided between people with knowledge of the criminal justice system and lay people.

It will have power to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice in magistrates' and Crown Courts, to direct and to supervise police enquiries on its behalf and to approve the appointment of investigating officers. The commission will investigate cases referred to it by lawyers and others and will have the power to refer to the Court of Appeal in England, Wales and Northern Ireland any conviction, verdict, finding or sentence by the courts.

The number of applications to the Home Office alleging a miscarriage of justice rose from 536 in 1988 to 763 in 1992, declining to 480 last year. Twelve cases were referred to the appeal court in 1994.

Leading article, page 19





David Wilson, left, was shot on the orders of Michael Austin. The hooded assassins have not been found

Fraudster jailed for murder by fax

BY KATE ALDERSON

AN AMERICAN millionare fraudster who ordered the execution of a British businessman by fax from New York was convicted of murder yesterday.

David Wilson was shot dead by two hooded assassins at his home near Chorley, Lancashire, in March 1992 after becoming involved in a multimillion-dollar cigarette deal with Michael Austin. The execution was ordered by Austin from his base in New Jersey after Mr Wilson began to threaten the success of his international criminal activities.

Austin, 39, was sentenced to life imprisonment after a seven-week trial at Carlisle Crown Court. Mr Wilson's wife, Barbara, and two daughters, Lisa-Marie, 26, and Michelle, 28, burst into tears as the verdict was announced.

The assassins have not been found, but after the case yesterday detectives disclosed a clue that may help to trace at least one. Faxes sent by Austin, whom Mr Wilson believed was a Mexican colonel called Hector Portillo, to an associate referred to a man called Alan Rayner. Detective Superintendent Bob Denmark, who led the murder inquiry across four continents, said: "We need to know who Alan Rayner is and how he figures in the inquiry. We would appeal to the public for help in finding him."

The court was told that Austin had amassed about £60 million from his criminal career. He had at least 50 aliases and conducted all his business by fax, telephone and answering service to evade arrest. Police confirmed his part in the murder by using a special computer program to search every telephone bill in the United States for a handful of telephone numbers called by Austin.

The judge, Mr Justice Kay, said that Mr Wilson had no idea what he was getting involved with when he began working as a middleman for Austin. Neither did he know that people he dealt with would lose large sums of money.

The judge told Austin: "When he [Mr Wilson] found out, he did not leave victims of the fraud to their own fate, but instead set about repairing the damage as best he could. You tried to frighten him off with threats but he persisted so you made arrangements to have him killed."

Rosemary West trial to start in autumn

BY RICHARD DUCE

ROSEMARY WEST will stand trial at Winchester Crown Court accused of murdering ten people including her daughter Heather, 16, a judge ruled yesterday. Her trial date was provisionally set for October 3 by Mr Justice Mantell who indicated yesterday that he would be the presiding judge.

Mr Justice Mantell, the senior presiding judge on the Western Circuit, announced his decision during a brief hearing at Bristol Crown Court. Mrs West, 41, was not present. Her trial is expected to last two months.

Nine of the alleged murder victims were found buried at 25, Cromwell Street, the home of Mrs West and her husband Frederick. The tenth, her stepdaughter Charmaine, 8, was found buried at their previous home. Mrs West, a mother of eight, also faces charges of rape and indecent assault on two women.

☐ The younger brother of Frederick West was committed for trial yesterday on two rape charges. John West, 52, of Gloucester, was committed to Gloucester Crown Court at a formal four-minute hearing by the city's magistrates.

Mr West, who is charged with raping two girls between January 1, 1975 and January 1, 1980, was allowed conditional bail pending his trial.

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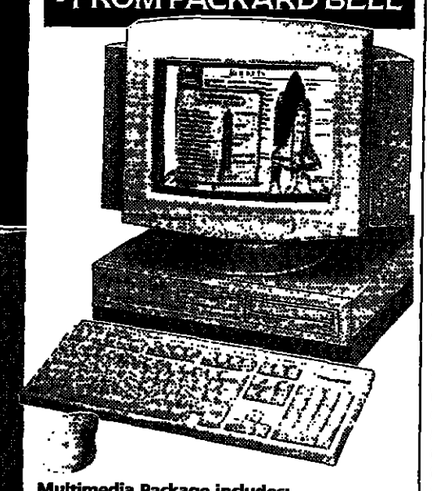
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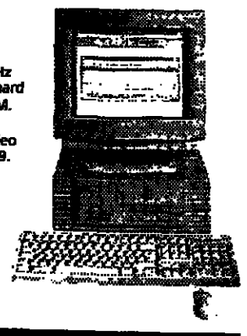
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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Perils of ignoring nanny's advice

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE gallantry of Colonel Richard Basset, who died recently, was recognised when he was awarded an MC and Bar for service as a company commander in the Rifle Brigade.

Colonel Basset was not only prepared to die for his regiment and country, but also for the right to eat what he liked. Desmond Young, in his book *Willing to Travel*, recounts that when Colonel Basset was a prisoner in Italy he would rather have faced starvation than eat vegetables — a legacy from the strictures of a nanny who made him eat his greens.

Arrangements were made for him to have daily consultations with the camp psychiatrist, a fellow prisoner. This had an unexpected outcome: the patient was no happier eating vegetables but, after counselling, the psychiatrist would not touch them either. By the end of the war both had been transferred to Germany and had suffered such severe malnutrition that they were lucky to survive.

Doctors should not be nannies and give orders, but we can make recommendations. Some of the soundest advice we give is that it is as well to breakfast like a king and dine like a pauper. This refers to the time and trouble devoted to breakfast rather than merely its quantity, for a regal breakfast should not be too rich in fats. Professor Tom Sanders, of the Department of Nutrition at King's College London, said: "To provide the traditional British breakfast has aptly been described as serving a heart attack on a plate."

A breakfast of bacon, eggs, sausages and fried bread, with lashings of butter on the toast, increases the clotting factors in the blood to a maximum seven hours after breakfast — or as Dr Sanders said: "Just in time to catch the wary office worker as he battles through the traffic on the way home."

It is not certain if this heavy breakfast should be described as English rather than British, for the Scots have long favoured porridge for breakfast.

Porridge is an ideal breakfast food. It is a polysaccharide and hence the carbohydrate within it is slowly absorbed, an effect which is further increased by the presence of a gum found in oats. The slow absorption provides energy throughout the morning and discourages the consumption of snacks with the morning coffee and the overgenerous gin and tonic taken to assuage the hunger before lunch.

If Scots will allow it, milk taken with the porridge provides the extra calcium needed; porridge oats served either with salt, or nothing, tends to inhibit the absorption of calcium.

Wide choice to start the day healthily

BY HELEN LEWIS

THE importance of a healthy start to the day is reflected in the wide variety of breakfast cereals in the shops.

Holland and Barrett sells own-brand porridge oats at 65p for 500g and Jordans's oats at £1.45 for 750g. Waitrose own-brand porridge oats cost 43p for 500g, or 72p for 1kg, and Sainsbury's Scotch porridge oats are the same price.

Muesli includes Marks and Spencer's unsweetened brand at £1.09 for 500g and Sunwheel Special De-Luxe Muesli at £2.65 for 750g at Harrods. Asda sells its own brand at £1.27 for 750g.

Fruit bargains to accompany breakfast include loose red plums from Safeway at 59p a lb, a saving of 30p. Conference pears are half price at Somerfield at 28p a lb.

Advertised best buys include:

Asda: four chicken Kiev, £2.99; straight-cut chips, £1.49 for 4lb.

Budgens: easy bakery French stick, 39p; strawberry ice cream, £1.39 for 2 litres.

Co-op: Dolmio cheese and spinach cannelloni, £1.29 for 350g; thick-sliced premium white bread 49p for 800g.

Harrods: scampi in ginger, £2.75 for 100g; smoked salmon castles, £3.25 for 100g.

Iceland: minced steak, £1.95 for 3lb; Sara Lee lemon or double chocolate meringue pie, 99p.

Marks and Spencer: traditional pork chops, £2.19 a lb; deep-pan cheese and tomato pizza, £2.25.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Safeway: Australian extra mature cheddar, £1.79 a lb; loose lemons, 9p each.

Somerfield: King Edward potatoes, £1.49 for 2.5kg; apple juice, 49p for one litre.

Tesco: sirloin steak, £3.98 a lb; iceberg lettuce, 49p.

Waitrose: nectarines, 29p each; half-fat red Leicester, £1.49 a lb.

BBC antiques programme claims new record after book of watercolours is uncovered in Brussels

Road Show fan's 'worthless' paintings valued at £300,000

By Marianne Curphey



One of the watercolours in the book inherited by Jean Flebus when he was 15

A BANKER whose collection of 19th-century watercolours a London auction house regarded as worthless ten years ago has been told they could now fetch up to £300,000.

The BBC's *Antiques Road Show* stumbled across the book of 25 paintings by the Filipino artist José Honorato Lozano during filming in Brussels this week. The leather-bound volume is the most valuable discovery the programme has made in its 17-year history, eclipsing the 1986 find of a £100,000 Victorian masterpiece by Richard Dadd.

The paintings, which belong to Jean Flebus, a 48-year-old bank trader and Road Show devotee, date from around 1875 and depict Manila and the surrounding countryside. Scenes include a prisoner being taken to jail, a peasant woman smoking, students in the dress of the day and several landscapes.

They were commissioned by Mr Flebus's great-great-grandfather, a traveller and former ship's architect who made a quick fortune from trading in tobacco after a crop glut in the 1870s and lost it almost as quickly after ill-judged investments in Mexico and Russia. The tobacco brand he set up, Nybros, is still available in Belgium.

The Road Show programme, to be broadcast on Easter Sunday, shows Mr Flebus going pale on being told of the book's value. He gasps and mutters: "I'm flabbergasted. I didn't know it would be so much."

The find sent a surge of excitement through the art market. Peter Nahum, a gallery owner and art expert who valued the paintings, described them as "a very significant find".

Speaking from Brussels yesterday, Mr Flebus said he had queued for three hours to have his book valued. "When Peter Nahum caught sight of the paintings he almost ripped the book out of my hand, he was so excited," he said.

"I had no idea they were worth so much money. I inherited them when I was 15 but was not allowed to touch them until I married at 24. I used to keep them at home to show friends and ten years ago I took them to Sotheby's to be valued but they were not interested in buying them."

Mr Flebus, who is married with two children, lives in Bonheiden, 20 miles from Brussels, and watches *Antiques Road Show* every week on cable television. He has put the paintings in a bank for safe keeping but says he would consider selling them. "They are of great sentimental value, but at my age I need to be thinking of my pension."

CLIVE CORLESS



Jean and Hilda Flebus with the book of paintings. "I had no idea they were worth so much," he said

Mr Nahum said the market for Filipino art had taken off in the wake of the economic boom in Pacific Asia. "Lots of people in the art world would love to get their hands on these works," he said.

"Filipino artists of the same period have been fetching around £20,000 to £30,000 per painting at auction. Ten years ago they would have been of no financial interest to auction houses because few people in the Philippines had the resources to buy art."

A spokeswoman for Sotheby's in London said the art market had changed in the past ten years. "The judgment we made on the paintings would be whether there was a market for them, not on their artistic qualities. We might have felt ten years ago that the time was just not right for a sale.

"We would love to see them again because there are an increasing number of collectors in the Philippines following the expansion of the economy, although this particular artist is not one who has come up at auction at Sotheby's before."

Marriage rates hit 150-year low

By Jeremy Laurance, Social Services Correspondent

MARRIAGE rates have fallen to their lowest level since records began 150 years ago, while divorce rates have risen to a new peak, a report shows.

According to figures from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the number of people marrying each year has declined steadily for the past 20 years, from 17 per 1,000 population to 11. The previous lowest rate — during the two world wars — was 14 per 1,000.

Forecasts of the death of the traditional family are exaggerated, though. Despite the six-fold increase in divorce since 1961, seven out of ten families are still headed by both birth-parents. The report, based on evidence presented at a series of seminars organised by the foundation, says that the rise of cohabitation has postponed rather than replaced marriage.

Sixty per cent of couples live together before their wedding day, compared with 6 per cent in the 1960s. Most cohabiting couples marry or break up before having children.

However, with one in four marriages soon expected to end in divorce, and the rise in young single mothers, questions have been raised about the well-being of future generations of children. The report says that despite political rhetoric emphasising the importance of family life, there has actually been a policy drift away from recognising the costs of parenthood.

During the past 30 years the tax burden on a couple with two children under 11 has risen from 9 per cent to 22 per cent, more than twice the rise faced by single people. Most of the increase occurred before 1979, but in the 16 years of Conservative Governments the tax burden on families has gone up 1 per cent while most individuals have had substantial tax cuts.

Over the same period the number of children living in families with less than half average income has risen from 1.4 million (10 per cent) to 4.1 million (32 per cent).

Launching the report, Sir Patrick Nairne, former permanent secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, said: "The Government has said a lot about family values and the importance of supporting the family. The question now is how to translate rhetoric into action. Will they put their policy where their mouth is?"

THE TIMES
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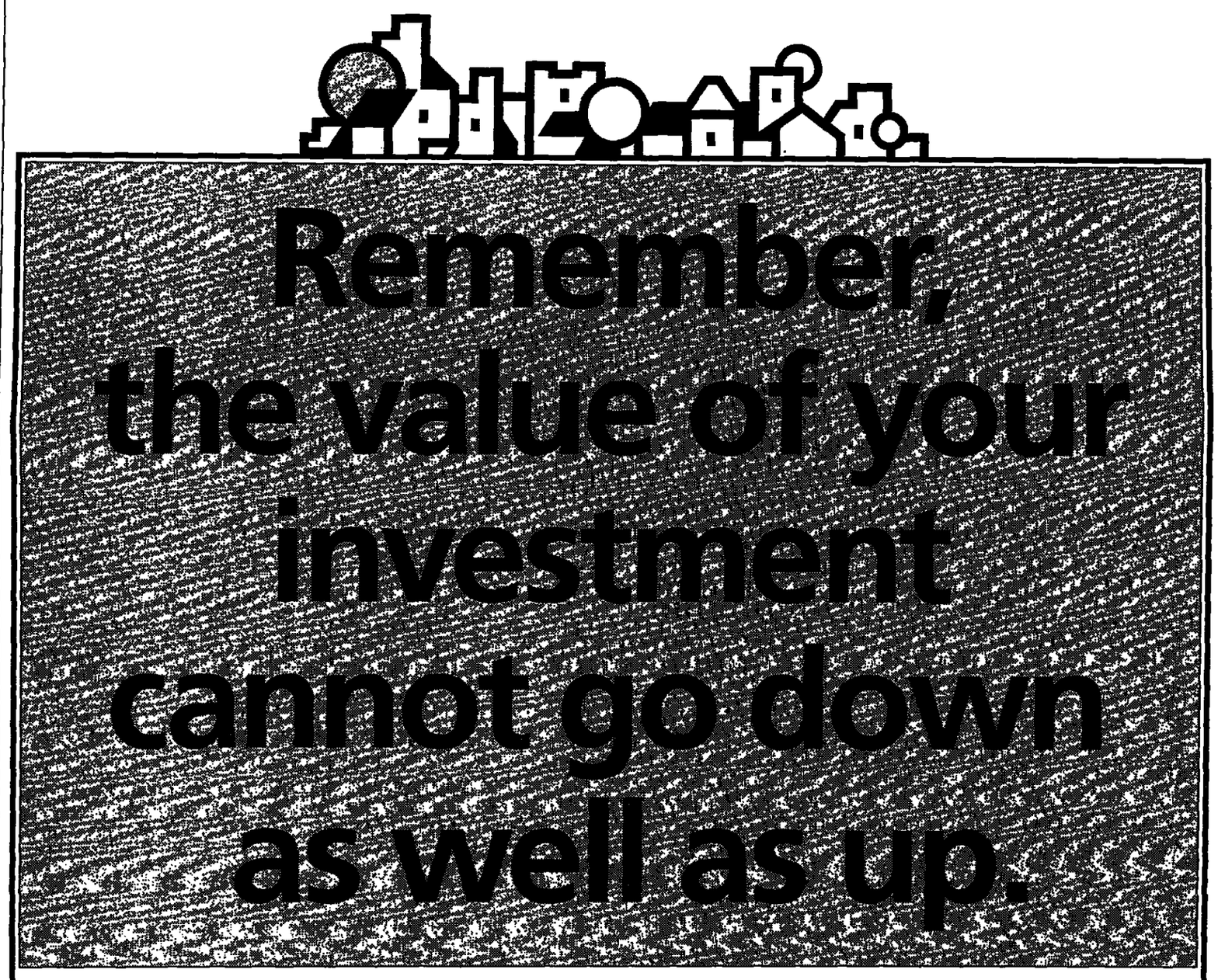
Among the many unabridged titles is *Taken On Trust* by Terry Waite (pictured), which he reads himself (ABC 945 – 12 cassettes). Held captive from January 1987 to November 1991, mostly in solitary confinement, Waite composed this autobiography in his head. It is a moving account of an existence in which he was robbed of companionship and any emotional, physical or mental stimulation.

Buy *Taken On Trust* for £17.95 and for 20p you could hear Angela Thorne read Sue Townsend's *The Queen and I* (ABC 889 – £13.65 – 8 cassettes). The People's Republican party has evicted the royal family from Buckingham Palace to a council estate. Aubusson rugs are cut to size and Titian paintings are mounted on anaglypta walls; when the Queen cuts her finger on a corned beef can she has to wait for hours to see an overworked doctor in a crowded casualty ward.



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National politics 'controls councils'

BY IAN MURRAY

PARTY political groups have replaced public council meetings as the place where decisions are taken, according to a report today by the Commission for Local Democracy.

The survey disclosed that 84 per cent of councils are now controlled by the major parties compared with 40 per cent 40 years ago.

According to the commission, Labour's national party's apparent fear of power-sharing has obliged local parties to follow guidelines before joining coalitions to run hung authorities.

Conservatives were found to work on a more informal basis with the party there to advise and the constituency association providing the main political focus. Liberal Democrats were the most enthusiastic about working inside hung councils.

Major's greater experience is not enough to revive flagging Conservative fortunes

Blair's popularity endures as Labour strengthens poll lead

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE public has formed a favourable view of Tony Blair's qualities as a leader who has a lot of personality and understands the problems facing Britain. But more people now regard him as inexperienced than when he was elected Labour leader last summer.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times*, undertaken last weekend before the launch of the Northern Ireland framework document, confirms the strong position of Mr Blair and Labour. In contrast, there is still no sign of any public reassessment of John Major or the Tories. Their ratings remain near their record lows of the past two years.

Labour has consolidated its big overall lead over the Tories after the slight narrowing last month. Labour has increased its rating over the past month from 56 to 58 per cent, while the Tories have slipped back from 27 to 24 per cent. The Liberal Democrats have stayed unchanged on 14 per cent.

These shifts follow the public splits within the Cabinet over Europe, as well as the warnings about cutbacks in schools, the patchiness of the housing market and the further rise in interest rates.

This month, MORI has asked its twice-yearly questions about the image of the main party leaders. They were previously put last September just after Mr Blair became Labour leader. Since then the public has come to a firmer view about Mr Blair. MORI has constructed a leadership index which measures the difference in the average of the favourable and unfavourable attributes.

On most of the positive attributes such as being a capable leader, more honest than most politicians, and understanding the problems facing Britain today, Mr Blair is rated more highly than Mr Major. He also scores low adverse ratings on most counts such as being narrow minded or too inflexible.

The main exception is that the number regarding him as rather inexperienced has risen from 29 to 36 per cent since last September. This is double the level for Mr Major. Tory strategists will see this finding as offering a chance to attack Mr Blair on the "boy for a man's job" line.

By contrast, Mr Major's ratings remain low and have slipped further since September. Tory supporters also rate him less favourably, particularly on being good in a crisis and understanding the problems of Britain and the world.

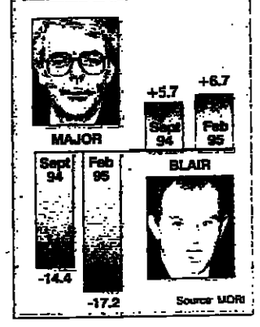
Despite the pressures on the Liberal Democrats in recent months, Paddy Ashdown remains well regarded as someone who has sound judgment and who is more honest than most politicians.

These findings tie in with the latest approval ratings. Less than one in ten are satisfied with the way the Government is running the country, while more than eight in ten are dissatisfied. By a two-to-one margin Tory supporters are dissatisfied. Mr Major's personal ratings remain flat — two in ten are satisfied with seven in ten dissatisfied. Two-fifths of even the reduced band of Tory supporters are dissatisfied with the way Mr Major is doing his job.

MORI, like other polling organisations, also adjusts its regular polling figures to take account of the reluctance of some Tory supporters to reveal their voting intentions. After adjusting the don't knows for declared past votes, Labour support is shown at 55 rather than 58 per cent, while the Tory rating is up at 28 rather than 24 per cent. On this basis, Liberal Democrat support is one point lower at 13 per cent.

□ MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,917 adults at 148 ward sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on February 17 to 20. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (8 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or refuse to name a party (3 per cent).

Q Here is a list of things both favourable and unfavourable that have been said about various politicians... pick out all those statements that you feel fit Mr Major/Blair (includes for example "capable", "too inflexible", "sound judgment", "understands the problems facing Britain", fourteen statements in all)



NO "FEEL-GOOD" FACTOR IN FEBRUARY

Q Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same or get worse over the next twelve months?

All expecting economy to improve	20-13 January	17-20 February	Change
Men	28%	19%	-9
18-34	22%	17%	-5
55+	25%	17%	-8
C1	27%	20%	-7
DE	15%	12%	-3
Mids	25%	16%	-9

Source: MORI. Base: 1,917 adults 18+ in 148 ward sampling points across Britain at home, 17-20 Feb '95

Middle classes succumbing to economic gloom

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE middle classes have become much more pessimistic over the past month about the outlook for the economy this year, according to the MORI poll.

Consequently, the economic optimism index has declined sharply and now stands at its lowest level since autumn 1992 after sterling was forced out of the European exchange-rate mechanism and the recession continued. The index, which measures those expecting the economic condition of the country to improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, stands at minus 27 points. This is nearly double last month's level.

All groups have become more pessimistic, but the biggest changes have been amongst men, those living in the Midlands, the London area, and particularly among the professional middle classes. The latter comprise roughly a sixth of the public. Whereas 36 per cent of the professional middle classes last month believed that the economy would improve, now just 21 per cent do. There has also been an above-average drop in Tory support in this group. By contrast, there has been a much smaller change among unskilled working class people.

This shift has occurred despite further evidence of strong economic growth and falls in unemployment. Over the month there was another increase in interest rates plus further stories of redundancies and of weakness in the housing market. There was, however, a below-average decline in optimism among those buying their homes on a mortgage.

Unemployment still tops the list of issues regarded as among the most important facing Britain today, though the number of mentions has declined over the past year from over 60 per cent to 52 per cent. Next in the list are the health service and law and order, mentioned by 36 and 26 per cent respectively, though there has been a steady rise in the number of references to education, up to 26 per cent, the highest for three years. This follows reports of cuts in school budgets and the possible sacking of teachers as a result of a squeeze on central Government grants.

The poll was undertaken last weekend before the launch of the Northern Ireland framework document. But Northern Ireland is mentioned by just 2 per cent as among the most important issues facing Britain today.

The number of people mentioning Europe has risen for the fifth month running to 25 per cent, its highest level since late 1991 when the Maastricht agreement was negotiated. This rise probably reflects the high profile arguments within the Tory party over the future of Britain's relations with the European Union.

Battered women to get more protection

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BATTERED women are to be protected from violent former partners under measures outlined by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, yesterday.

Under the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill, more people will be able seek a court order against being attacked or molested. At present only spouses or current partners can apply for such orders. But the Bill, which Lord Mackay moved for second reading yesterday, gives couples who have separated the same protection as couples still living together.

People linked even by a loosely defined domestic or family relationship may seek the protective orders. Those elegible will include: former spouses or partners, people who live or have lived in the same household (excluding tenants, lodgers or boarders), certain close relatives or others who have had parental responsibility for a child.

Lord Mackay said: "I am concerned to ensure that the civil law gives as much support as possible to the victims of domestic violence, in partnership with the criminal law. I believe this Bill will make a considerable contribution to the interests of victims of domestic violence. We all appreciate the damage which can be inflicted by perpetrators on victims and their families."

He added that it was essential for remedies to be obtainable quickly in emergencies. The aim of the measures was to improve the level of protection, remove gaps and anomalies in the present law and produce a single clear and comprehensive code. The Bill, which implements most of the recommendations of the Law Commission, would also strengthen the powers of the courts, Lord Mackay said.

Minister angry at summit confusion

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

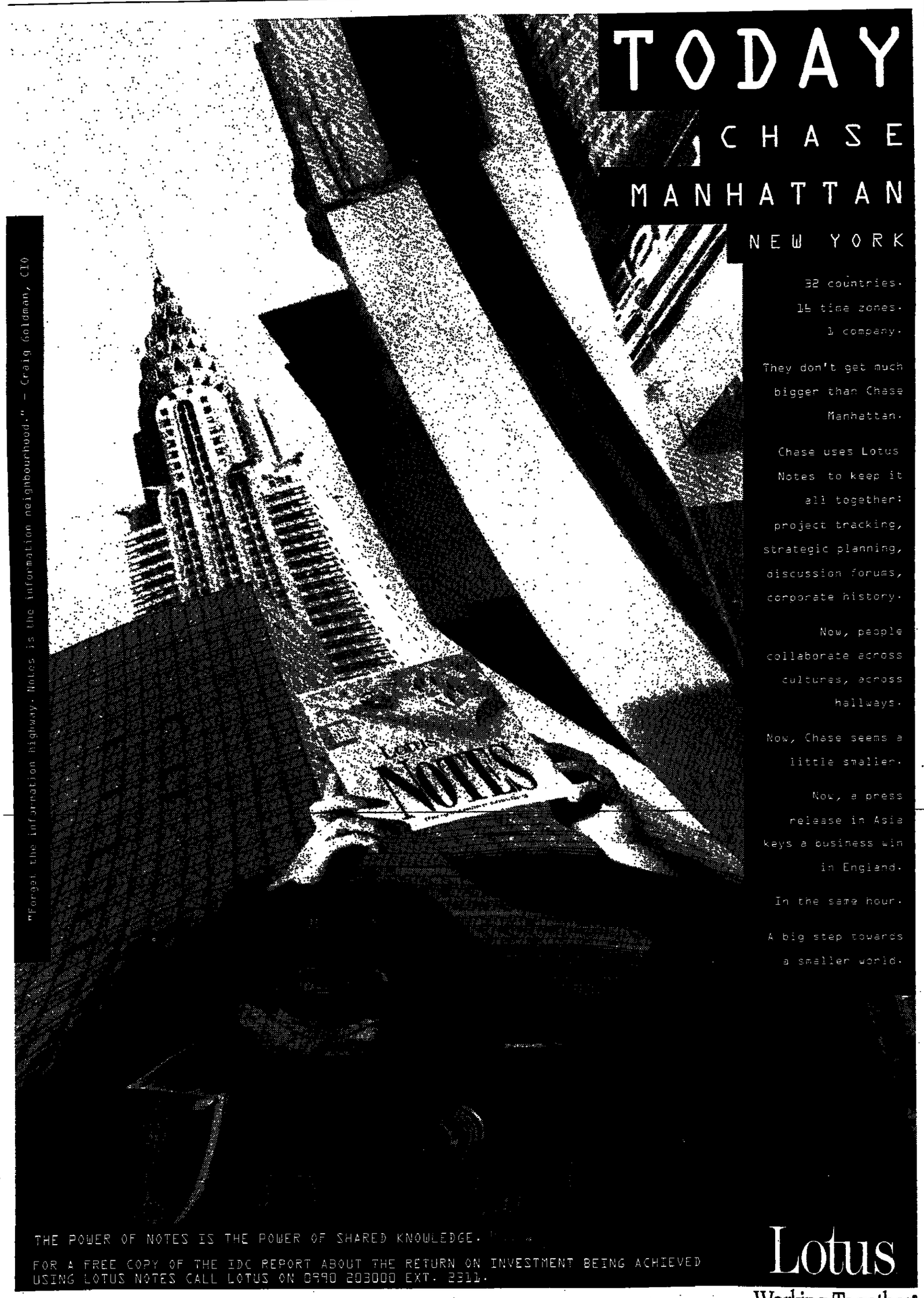
ACCUSATIONS by Eurosceptic Tories that the Foreign Office has endorsed plans modelled on the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty to tackle world poverty have been dismissed as "palpably untrue" by Alastair Goodlad, the minister of state at the Foreign Office.

Referring to criticism of the Government's stance on the world summit for social development in Copenhagen next month, Mr Goodlad said the paper that the Government supported was in fact a background paper produced by the European Commission.

This had nothing to do with the controversial social chapter, but was intended as a contribution to member states' preparations for the summit. "The paper has not been discussed by member states at all, and no formal Council decision is required," Mr Goodlad said.

He said the summit was a development conference on alleviating poverty, creating jobs and strengthening social cohesion. It was up to each country to decide how to fulfil the summit's aims. Several Whitehall departments, including the Foreign Office, the Overseas Development Administration and the Employment Department, are co-ordinating the British preparations, although there is considerable scepticism in Whitehall over what the summit can achieve.

However, in view of the extreme sensitivity of all European issues in the Conservative Party, the Foreign Office has been angered at what it sees as deliberate confusion between the forthcoming summit, organised by the United Nations, and initiatives taken by Brussels to harmonise social conditions within the EU.



MPs declare all in sudden show of sleaze sensitivity

BY ALICE THOMSON AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MPs have reacted to two years of damaging sleaze allegations by making even their most trivial financial and leisure interests public.

Nothing has proved too modest to declare in the latest Register of Members' Interests for MPs chastened by the cash-for-questions affair and revelations of free holidays and other hospitality.

A wealth of complimentary golf and sports club memberships have been declared for the first time. Gifts ranging from pots of honey to free car parking are also listed.

Several senior Tories who have been embroiled in allegations of wrongdoing have been especially painstaking in declaring the most insignificant items. Since Neil Hamilton resigned as a minister after allegations that he had a free stay at the Paris Ritz, he appears to have been feted by a string of companies with trips to the opera and various prestigious sporting events. Under "Gifts" he lists corporate hospitality and, for the uninitiated, explains: "This usually involves tickets to sporting and cultural events plus meals and drinks."

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, joins the confessional trend by coyly admitting: "My wife and I were guests of the British Phonographic Industry Ltd at a charity production of *Oliver*." Many other entries reveal similar sensitivity as MPs strive to avoid being seen to profit from their positions.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, and Clare Short, a Labour Northern Ireland spokesman, both accepted rugs from foreign Governments. Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, accepted twelve jars of honey as an adviser to the London Beekeepers' Association.

The occasional invitation to play golf, a paid day's shooting or a complimentary membership of the gym used to be considered one of the unwritten perks. Although Alec Douglas-Home would have been appalled at having to declare all his grouse weekends, several backbench Tory MPs have suddenly listed a series of such events with free ammunition. Andrew Hargreaves, Tory MP for Hall Green, admits that he very occasionally gets invitations to fishing tournaments.

Dame Angela Rumbold and her husband had the most exotic trip, courtesy of the Barbados Tourist Authority. Last year ten MPs had test drives in new cars, but this year only Antony Steen, Tory MP for South Hams, was invited behind the wheel. The car was an Alfa Romeo.

Several MPs admit that their sporting pursuits are partially funded by others. The Tory MP Alan Duncan and the former minister Tom King have disclosed they have been given free memberships to gyms. Sir Anthony Grant, the Tory MP for Cambridgeshire South West, has, for the first time, listed a glut of golf clubs of which he is an honorary member, including the Gog Magog, Meridien and Heydon clubs. Clearly conscious of journalists' prying nature, he has also declared an overnight stay at a London hotel, "partly paid for by my daughter".

Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, received a small fee for participating in Anglia TV's *Quiz of the year* show and many MPs list occasional media fees.

Emma Nicholson, Tory MP for Torridge & W Devon, is the only member to list more than a page of interests but all of them are unpaid. Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed, has the second longest list with his consultancy work for companies whose interests include colostomy bags, contraceptive implants and varicose veins.

The new list also reveals new occupations for the cluster of former ministers who have lost their jobs during the past two years. Tim Yeo, one of the first ministerial casualties at the start of the sleaze allegations, lists his positions as consultant and adviser to a company operating private nursing homes and an investment companies.

David Mellor, who lost his cabinet post after dislosures about his private life, lists consultancies with 12 companies, ranging from British Aerospace to Ernston Young chartered accountants. However, in keeping with the carefully worded nature of many entries, he notes: "I do not lobby ministers on their behalf" and "I do not speak on behalf of those clients in the Commons or table questions related to their interests."



Hamilton: feted at the opera and various sporting events



Blair: he and his wife were guests of a charity stage musical



Rumbold: she went to Barbados as guests of the tourist board



Mackinlay: was paid for taking part in a TV quiz programme



Ashdown: accepted the gift of a rug from a foreign government



Short: also accepted a rug from a foreign government



Grant: listed series of golf clubs of which he is an honorary member



King: disclosed his free membership of a gymnasium

Charge for drugs is fair, says Major

BY JAMES LANDALE

JOHN MAJOR yesterday defended the 50p rise in prescription charges announced on Wednesday, denying Opposition claims that it was a tax increase for the sick.

The Prime Minister told the Commons at Question Time that more than 80 per cent of prescriptions were dispensed without charge, adding: "I believe it is fair that people who can afford to pay do so." Money from the increase to £5.25 would not go to the Exchequer but directly to other areas of health care.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed, had asked what the Prime Minister would say to those people whose incomes were just high enough to disqualify them for free prescriptions and those whose chronic illnesses were not on the qualification list and who had to pay "26 times more for a prescription than they did in 1979".

"Is that a fair rate of inflation for such a vulnerable group of people?"

Labour has 'won support of middle England'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

HARD-working, middle-class southerners are flocking to Labour in protest at Tory extremism, Tony Blair claimed last night as he renewed his courtship of middle England.

At a rally in Bournemouth, the Labour leader insisted that his new-look party was the voice of the moderate, middle-income majority throughout the country. He aimed his message at the market towns and villages of the shires, saying that the traditional Tory heartlands were switching sides because they felt betrayed by the Government. While Labour was increasingly in tune with the hopes and fears of the middle classes, the Conservatives were becoming a party of extremes — a "wild party" in thrall to prejudice and dogma.

But his claims were immediately challenged by the Liberal Democrats, who pointed out that they had won all three of the Tory seats lost in byelections since the general election. Diana Maddock, Liberal Democrat victor at Christchurch, added that in the Dorset Euro-seat last June, the Liberal Democrats had come within a whisker of beating the Tories while Labour finished a distant third.

The rally, attended by about 1,000 Labour activists, was the platform for Mr Blair's latest attempt to win grassroots support for his crusade to ditch Clause 4. He wants to replace its over-arching commitment to state control of industry with a modern statement of Labour values founded on a market economy and social justice.

The Labour leader linked his campaign, to be voted on at a special conference at the end of April, to his efforts to capture the centre ground. He said that rewriting Clause 4 would create a stronger, more vibrant party and win greater trust among the electorate.

Reminding his audience that in the South Labour gained eight Euro-seats in June and now ran or led more than a dozen councils, Mr Blair said that the Tories had given up any claim they had to speak for the people of Britain. "The blue map is turning red. Majorities of 20,000 are no longer safe. Market towns, the suburbs, the new towns are all vulnerable."

Even John Major's own seat of Huntingdon could not be relied upon to return a Tory candidate, he said. "I don't know any place that can still claim to be a Tory heartland. The new Labour party is back speaking up for the majority. And it is because we speak for the majority instead of a privileged elite that Labour has become the party of the South."

The young Tories, "a dwindling band of ill-disciplined extremists", the lurch to the Right over Europe, privatisation of British Rail, "obscene" pay rises for utility bosses and creeping privatisation of the health service were all examples of the way the Conservatives were out of touch. The Cabinet was being dragged to the Right over Europe by hardline backbenchers, and the Prime Minister was dithering in its wake.

Mr Blair said that total withdrawal from Europe was very much on the Tory agenda as Norman Lamont, Sir Rhodes Boyson and the whipless Tory rebels increasingly questioned British membership of the EU. While the Prime Minister pandered to his anti-European renegades, the future prosperity of the country was being put at risk.

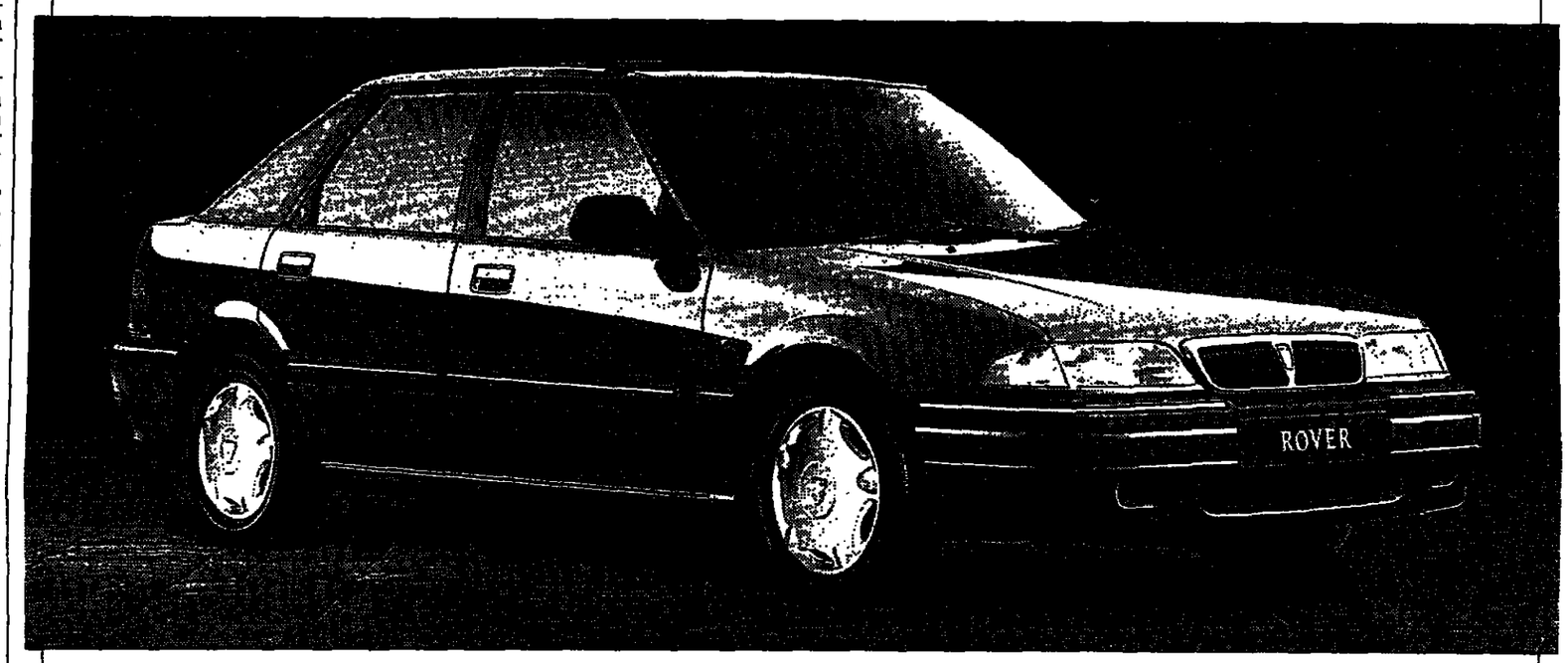
New Labour was providing the answers with its proposals for partnerships between the public and private sectors, moving people off welfare and into work, and punishing crime while tackling its causes. "New Labour is not a knee-jerk tax-and-spend party, but will argue about what we are spending on, as well as how much we spend."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the Army opened by Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister. In the Lords, debates were held on the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill and the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act.

TODAY: Teresa Gorman, Tory MP for Billericay, will open the second reading of the Referendum Bill. Nicholas Budgen Tory MP for Wolverhampton will open the second reading of the Referendum (Single Currency) Bill.

The House of Lords is not sitting.



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'Blasphemy' boy freed to life of fear in Pakistan

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

A 14-YEAR-OLD Pakistani Christian who faced execution for blasphemy was cleared and ordered to be immediately freed by Lahore High Court last night. But Salamat Masih faces almost certain death if he returns home and his only hope of survival seems to be a new life abroad.

Amid scenes of pandemonium the court upheld an appeal by Salamat and Rehmat Masih, 44, against their conviction on February 9 by a lower court on charges of blasphemy against the prophet Muhammad. The pair were to have been hanged on the flimsy evidence of an uneducated imam, or (prayer leader) from a Punjab village. The case has exposed the depth of religious persecution in Pakistan and made a mockery of the judicial system, which allowed a patently cooked-up charge to go ahead.

Justice Arif Bhatti ruled that pieces of paper containing blasphemous comments and thrown into a mosque were written not by a child but by an experienced, older hand. The man should be brought to book, he said.

There was immediate pandemonium outside the court, with one mullah screaming hysterically and hostile crowds turning on at least one foreign journalist and threatening to kill him with a knife on the grounds that he was presumably a Christian. He was rescued by a lawyer, who appealed: "In the name of God, don't do it."

Salamat can never permanently return to his village of Ratta Dhotran, near Gujranwala in Punjab. Some mullahs have already urged Muslims to martyr themselves by ensuring that he dies. Salamat's mother, father, three sisters and three brothers, are in hiding, in fear of assassination by Muslim extremists. The only hope for Salamat may be to move abroad with the help of an international agency.

The police are blatantly unwilling to aid religious minorities coming under physical attack, a common complaint among the 2 million Pakistani Christians. The blasphemy case will worsen their plight and doubtless anger Islamic extremists who will seek retribution.

The Christian multi-denominational Church of Pakistan is protecting Salamat's family in Gujranwala, which is outside Lahore. All 60 or 70 Christians have long since left Ratta Dhotran village — population 600 — fearing for their lives.

The scenes in the colonial-era High Court yesterday were both carnival-like, and sinister. One lawyer behaved like an official jester with an incomprehensible ramble about international conspiracies, which had everyone laughing. At other times, with fundamentlist mullahs crowding the room, the atmosphere became grave. Scores of police stood outside the door, ready to intervene.

Not a scrap of evidence was submitted by prosecution lawyers to support allegations that Salamat and his co-accused scratched an offensive slogan on the wall of the village mosque and threw the pieces of paper into the building containing blasphemous statements. Salamat and the co-accused were shot and wounded last April in a murder attempt outside a Lahore court. Salamat's uncle died in the attack.

The judge's ruling that a child could not have written the words on the slips of paper, which were submitted to the court but not read out, is mysterious, since the co-accused was an adult. Political pressure was almost certainly applied to the court to throw out the case, which has caused international condemnation.

It is the first time a child has been sentenced to death in Pakistan for blasphemy, representing another advance in religious intolerance.

Salamat, who told a lower court during his trial that he was illiterate, has been in a filthy cell since his conviction a week ago, eating food that his lawyers desribed as disgusting. A hole in the wall served as a toilet. Salamat was 12 when the alleged offence happened. He seems to have been the victim of a village dispute, which quickly developed a religious dimension.

Fazle Haq, the grey-bearded imam who brought the charges, sat in the court earlier in the day, expressionless and wrapped in a brown blanket. He threw events into chaos earlier in the week by refusing to pursue the case, but changed his mind later for no clear reason. Rasheed Murtaza Qureshi, the prosecuting lawyer, accused the court of bias.



The prosecuting lawyer objects to yesterday's proceedings as the accusing imam looks on

Anti-pact coalition calls on Arafat to resign

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Middle East peace process suffered a serious setback yesterday when moderate Palestinians and Islamicists announced the formation of the first Arab coalition in the occupied West Bank to oppose the 17-month old accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The leader of the new coalition, Bassam al-Shakaa, the former Mayor of Nablus said it was calling for the immediate end to the peace deal signed in Washington in September 1993 and the resignation of Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman.

The formation of the new group was regarded by both Israeli and Palestinian officials as a serious blow to Mr Arafat. He is facing mounting pressure inside the PLO to scrap the accord after an eight-month delay in implementing the second stage to extend autonomy to the rest of the West Bank outside the tiny Jericho enclave.

Mr al-Shakaa, who lost both legs in a booby-trapped bomb planted in his car by Jewish extremists in 1980, said the aim of the new grouping was to "reunify the Palestinian people under one leadership and one institution after the PLO lost its title of representative of all Palestinians".

The latest challenge to Mr Arafat's leadership came after half the ruling executive committee of the PLO boycotted an emergency session held in Cairo as a protest against the continuation of the deadlocked peace talks. Even within Fatah, the backbone of the new administration in Gaza and Jericho, frustration is growing at the refusal of Israel to continue with the withdrawal of its forces, repeated closures of the areas following bomb attacks and continued Jewish settlement building.

"If they stopped the negotiations, I think that would be a small step," said Mr al-Shakaa, 64, who is regarded as pro-Syrian in his politics and commands a strong personal following. He claimed the formation of the 24-member Palestinian Authority, which now runs Jericho and Gaza, was illegal in terms of the PLO's normal decision-making processes.

Palestinian sources said the new group, which did not include members of Fatah or Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, was the first in the West Bank to form a coalition publicly opposed to the peace process.

In Cairo, Egyptian and Israeli leaders failed to resolve wide differences over Israel's continuing refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, decided to fly home without a second meeting with Egypt's President Mubarak.

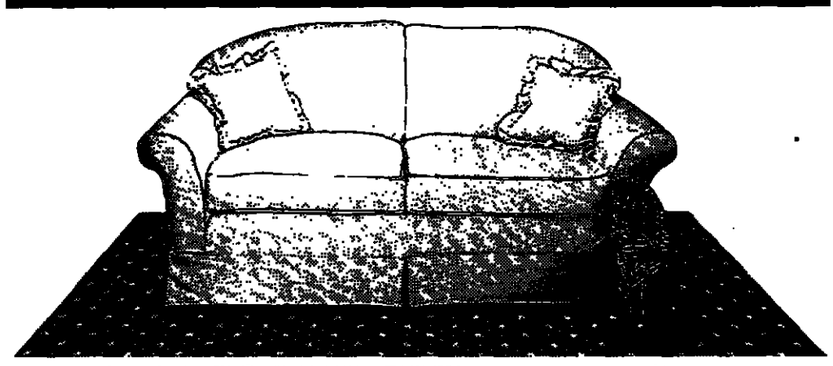
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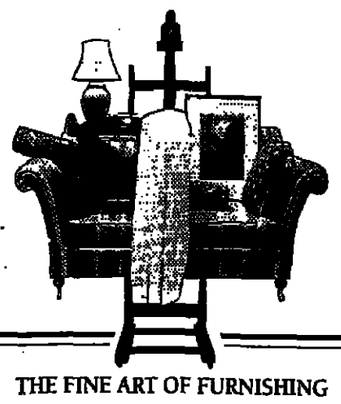
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WORLD SUMMARY

Buthelezi rejects peace bid

Cape Town: Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Home Minister and leader of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, has dashed the hopes of peacemakers by refusing to meet the leaders of the other coalition partners in the national Government to discuss his party's boycott of parliament (Michael Hamlyn writes).

He said yesterday there was no point in such a meeting, and that all he needed to enable a return to parliament was to be able to report to a special Inkatha congress next month the names of mediators and a time and a place for talks to begin.

Hitler's tract in Hebrew

Jerusalem: For the first time since the foundation of the Jewish state, the Knesset has sanctioned the publication of a Hebrew translation of Adolf Hitler's seminal Nazi tract, *Mein Kampf*, with the strict condition that it appear with the literary equivalent of a health warning (Christopher Walker writes). Officials said earlier translation of the work into Hebrew had been considered too painful for many, especially for the thousands of Holocaust survivors who made their home in the Jewish state.

Lange to quit after 20 years

Wellington: David Lange, the former New Zealand Prime Minister, has announced that he will quit politics at the next election. Mr Lange, 52, said that after nearly 20 years in parliament he was quitting while he was ahead. "I feel a sense of relief. I've come to the end of a particular pilgrimage," he said. It is better that I go content than be a relic trying to conform to life in a different fishpond." The election must be held by November 1996. *(Reuter)*

O.J. Simpson witness blow

Los Angeles: Kathleen Bell, an important defence witness in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, has said she will not testify unless forced to by a subpoena (Giles Whittell writes). Her allegations of police racism underpin defence theories of a frame-up. She is the second defence witness in as many weeks to flinch in the face of what one analyst has called "electron microscope" publicity.

Feeding time at the zoo

Sofia: A Bulgarian zoo is to close after 37 animals were eaten by hungry thieves. Thirteen peacocks, ten golden pheasants, six mountain goats, and four sheep were stolen, slaughtered and eaten, the BTA agency said. Four deer were let out and shot by poachers. Lions and other animals were relocated earlier. *(Reuter)*

Islamic law helps to curb violence in parts of Somalia

FROM SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU

ABDI AZIZ levered his brother Abdibile's legs back and forth, vainly trying to pump feeling into the limbs, paralysed yesterday when another brother shot him in the back. Bui Abdibile, 25, will never walk again.

For now he lies with a plastic tube up his nose in south Mogadishu's Digfer hospital. He may die, yet another victim of a lawlessness which sees family squabbles settled with a gun.

In the south of the Somali capital, the area controlled by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, anarchy rules. In the north of the city however, as well as in Merka, 50 miles to the south, and in Baidoa, 115 miles inland, local residents have tired of Somalia's endless cycle of violence and revenge and are striking back by imposing the Sharia, or Islamic law.

The results have been spectacular. Crime figures have plummeted and the power of the country's warlords now looks under greater threat than at any time during the presence of foreign peacekeeping forces, the last of whom leave next week.

The Sharia was imposed on north Mogadishu, hideout of Ali Mahdi Muhammad, General Aidid's nemesis, last August. Since then an Islamic court has presided over the execution by stoning of three men for rape or murder, eight amputations of the right hand and left foot for armed robbery, five hand amputations for theft, and hundreds of floggings for crimes such as drinking during Ramadan.

Since the imposition of Sharia law, Mr Ali Mahdi has been forced to send the wild bandits that formed his militia out of town and throw his lot in with the Islamic elders. The alternative is obscurity.

General Aidid yesterday also saw the writing on the wall. His bi-weekly anti-American demonstration, usually an opportunity for his mobs to vent their xenophobia, was transformed into an Islamic fundamentalist prayer session with scores of children holding up hand-painted Koranic tablets.

The leader of the Sharia movement, Shaikh Sharif Shaikh Muhadin, 60, insisted yesterday that the movement was not fundamentalist and was not receiving backing from extremist Islamic states. "We have no desire to force others to convert," he said.

For Abdi Aziz, the Sharia cannot come too soon to south Mogadishu. "Of course we should have Sharia here," he said, touching the numb soles of his brother's unfeeling feet. "If we don't have it, then the agony will continue."

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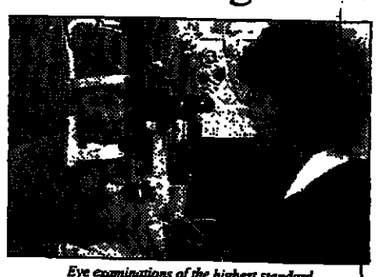
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Democrat fury as Republicans try to cut school meals

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ALMOST nothing in the Republicans' *Contract With America* has caused such a furore as their latest attempt to scrap the US Government's school-lunch programme and to send lump sums to the states to feed children.

The shift is part of the Republicans' wide budget-cutting plans to curb numerous programmes of benefit to the poor and elderly.

Democrats erupted with fury as they saw years of their social legislation under threat, but they were particularly worried that cuts to school meals and supplemental food stamps for pregnant and breast-feeding women would lead to a reduction of adequate nutrition standards.

They angrily remembered how President Reagan's Administration had tried to designate tomato ketchup as a vegetable during an earlier attempt to economise on school lunches. At the White House and on Capitol Hill, Democrats brandished ketchup bottles for the cameras as they complained that Republicans were "taking meals from our kids".

Some 25 million lunches and six million breakfasts are served free or at cut rates in 90,000 Americans schools. Any parents who are poor or earning less than $27,000 (£17,400) per couple qualify for the programme, which began in 1946 amid concerns about nutrition with so many young men failing their physical exams for conscription during the Second World War.

There was an immediate improvement in school attendance, health and classroom marks. Even Richard Nixon, a strong Republican, expanded the programme after being convinced that hunger was keeping children from learning.

Democrats tried to slow the changes yesterday by tying up the proceedings of a congressional committee. President Clinton joined in the argument, saying: "An old conservative adage used to be, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' Here's a programme that has done a world for good for millions of children and it would be a terrible mistake to gut it."



Clinton: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Republicans denied Democrats' claims that the proposed legislation would put an end to national nutrition standards or that states looking for ways to save money would cut corners on menus. To the contrary, they said, meals would be better under local supervision and schools would be spared the burdensome paperwork involved in being part of the federal scheme.

The Republicans, looking for cuts of up to $15 billion also targeted youth training, scholarships, fuel subsidies for the elderly and spending on urban parks. The National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, each lost $5 million. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the parent of America's non-commercial radio and television, lost 15 per cent of its government grant, with deeper cuts planned for the following year. All the cuts have yet to pass the powerful main Appropriations Committee and then be debated on the floor of the House. By protesting now, Democrats are hoping they can whip up enough public support to force the Republicans into having second thoughts.



Moment of impact: Greg Louganis hits the diving board at the Seoul Olympics

Olympic diver ends silence over Aids

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

GREG LOUGANIS, the American diver who won gold medals in springboard and platform diving at two consecutive Olympics, is suffering from Aids.

In a new book, he says he was "paralysed by fear" when he gashed his head on the board and spilled blood into the pool at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The American athlete announced at the Gay Games last summer that he was homosexual, and has since spoken out against anti-gay discrimination. His autobiography, *Breaking the Surface*, gives an account of his long struggle with the HIV virus, which causes Aids, which he kept secret from fans and sports authorities.

He becomes the latest in a succession of sporting celebrities — including Arthur Ashe, the late former Wimbledon champion and Magic Johnson, the basketball star — to disclose that they were infected with HIV.

Mr Louganis, 35, said in an interview on ABC television that he tested positive for HIV six months before the 1988 Olympics, when he found out that his companion was dying of Aids. He began treatment with the drug AZT, taking powerful doses every four hours. On the advice of his coach and doctor, he kept his condition secret and smuggled drugs into the team's lodgings in Seoul.

During a preliminary round, he hit his head on the springboard as he attempted a reverse two-and-half pike, opening a two-inch wound that required five stiches.

"I heard this big hollow thud, and then I found myself in the water ..." he said. "I didn't know if I was cut or not. But I just wanted to hold the blood in, or just not anybody touch it."

Looking gaunt, he told the interviewer he thought the blood would be diluted by the water and that the virus would be killed by chlorine — a view endorsed by doctors.

"I was stunned," he said. "What was going on in my mind was, 'Do I say something?' This has been an incredibly guarded secret. You could throw the competition into a state of alarm. Even more so than just having hit my head on a board. I was paralysed by fear."

James Puffer, the poolside doctor who stitched the wound without using protective gloves, said he only learnt of Mr Louganis's condition when the diver wrote to him last year. Now a professor of family medicine, he said he had tested negative for the virus, and believes he was never at risk.

Mark Bradshaw, the diver who followed Mr Louganis in the competition, said he also considered the chances of infection "highly remote".



Louganis: champion at two Olympics

Tenacious Texan joins 1996 presidential race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PHIL GRAMM today becomes the first Republican formally to declare his candidacy in next year's presidential race. On the face of it, he is one of the more unlikely men ever to seek America's highest office.

The conservative Texas senator is untouched by glamour, charisma or good looks. He is mean, caustic and overbearing, and loathed by congressional colleagues. The electorate's initial reaction is likely to be the same as his wife's when he virtually proposed at their very first meeting — "Yuck".

Mr Gramm in fact married Wendy, a Korean-American, three proposals and six weeks later. He has a history of achieving seemingly impossible goals, and only the foolish would dismiss his quest for the biggest prize of all.

Mr Gramm is vastly ambitious and tenacious, and supremely well prepared with a formidable war chest. He has superb political instincts, boldly launching a crusade against President Clinton's bureaucratic healthcare plan just when it seemed most popular. Above all, the message of minimal government he has expounded for two decades is suddenly all the rage.

The new Republican Congress vows to balance the budget. Mr Gramm forced through legislation to do that ten years ago. The Gramm-Rudman law was discarded in 1990 as politically too painful; now infinitely greater spending cuts are needed.

Polls show Robert Dole, the Senate leader, as the strong favourite for the Republican nomination, but conservative party activists determine the nominee. They regard Mr Dole as a moderate, not a revolutionary, a man who has spent 34 years in Washington and basically believes in government. Mr Gramm's cry is that he was "conservative before conservative was cool".

He was born 52 years ago in Columbus, Georgia, the son of an army sergeant disabled soon after his birth by a serious heart attack. His mother worked double shifts to make ends meet. The young Gramm mowed lawns, delivered newspapers and returned old bottles to earn extra cash.

Neither parent was educated, but Mr Gramm's mother pushed him into the city's best school. He performed wretchedly so, when his father died, she used his life insurance to send the boy to Georgia Military Academy, a tough private school where he blossomed.



Gramm: untouched by charisma or good looks

He won an economics degree and a PhD from the University of Georgia in six years — and also five Vietnam draft deferments which could now prove an electoral liability. He began teaching at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University, became a full professor by 30, and started weighing a political career. He sent hundreds of letters to groups across Texas offering himself as a speaker. Only one small Lions Club took him up. But in his audience of 13 was a self-employed printer called Dickey Flatt, a man he has since extolled as a model of the honest worker whose earnings are being increasingly purloined by a profligate, intrusive government.

Mr Gramm asks of every new federal programme if "the benefits of this are worth taking money away from Dickey Flatt to pay for? Not a lot of programmes can withstand the Dickey Flatt test."

The senator's enemies call this rank hypocrisy. They point out that he has been on the government payroll since the day he was born, as a soldier's son, scholarship student, university academic and congressman, and that he has always fought vigorously for multibillion-dollar space and defence programmes that benefit Texas. "He's one of the biggest hogs at the trough," a former congressional colleague said.

But Mr Gramm's fiscal conservatism is genuine, his cultural conservatism more expedient. He won his Senate seat in 1984 by savaging his Democratic opponent for receiving an unsolicited $500 (£330) donation from a gay group's male strip show. His own television advertisements showed him happily boating with his wife and two sons.

Mrs Gramm later became head of the powerful Commodity Futures Trading Commission and a considerable asset to her husband. Were he to reach the White House, she would be America's first non-Caucasian First Lady.

The Clinton White House is privately rooting for him to win the Republican nomination. One insider, referring to the arch-conserative Republican nominee slaughtered by Lyndon Johnson in 1964, confided: "They see him as the Barry Goldwater of '96, so extreme that the public just won't buy him."

Peru denies ceasefire breach

Lima: President Fujimori of Peru blamed Ecuador for renewed fighting in a border dispute and strongly denied his country was ignoring a ceasefire agreement signed last week.

His statement followed charges by Quito that Peru had regrouped its troops during the ceasefire and was attacking Ecuadorean border posts in the Amazonian region contested by the two sides militarily since last month. Ecuador has announced a special meeting of the Organisation of American States permanent council in Washington to discuss alleged ceasefire violations.

In a television interview, Señor Fujimori said Peruvian troops surrounding the border post at Tiwintza had come under artillery fire and that the Ecuadorean Army was "trying to recuperate that zone or secure a better position" in defiance of of a peace declaration signed last Friday in Brasilia. Despite the renewed hostilities Señor Fujimori called on an advance team of international ceasefire monitors expected soon on the Peruvian side of the border "to trust the goodwill of both sides, especially Peru, to comply with the agreement".

The monitors flew to the disputed border area on Wednesday, visiting the Ecuadorean military post of Coangos. *(AFP)*

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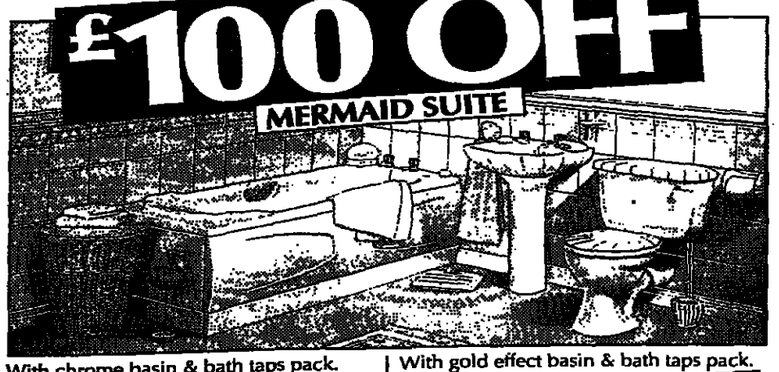
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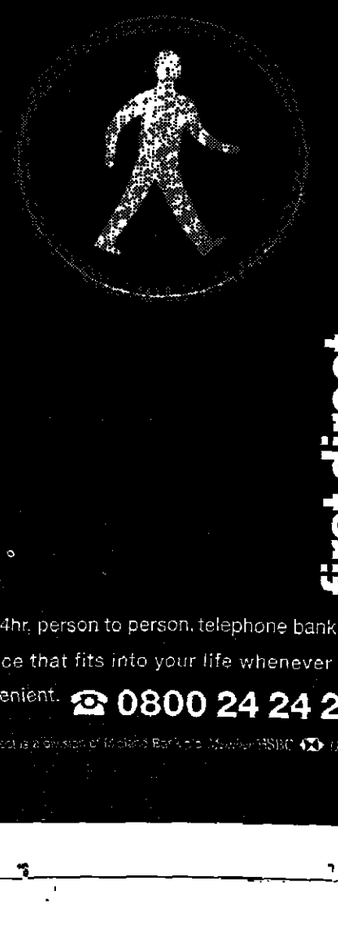
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Election politics blamed for Paris spy leak

Washington set to resist order to recall diplomats

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE Clinton Administration is unlikely to comply with the French request that it withdraw all of the four American embassy officials in Paris accused of political and economic espionage. A senior US official predicted that the two CIA officers who were posing as diplomats would be quickly withdrawn, but the other two, the openly acknowledged CIA station chief and his deputy, would remain until their postings expired.

France has not expelled the Americans. It has "recommended" that they leave the country, a formulation making it unlikely that the United States would retaliate by ordering French embassy officials to leave Washington. By withdrawing only two of the four the Administration would acknowledge some guilt but also underscore its displeasure.

The New York Times yesterday said the French action had "plunged relations between the two countries into one of the strangest crises of their history". The *Los Angeles Times* called it "the most serious espionage rift between the two allies in nearly 20 years".

On Wednesday night the Administration made its anger abundantly clear with a statement calling the leak unwarranted and the French conduct "inconsistent with the approach that allies have taken to resolve sensitive matters". Yesterday it sought to lower the temperature, noting that the French had "backed way, way back in their accusations".

US officials privately conceded that "we got caught with our hands in the cookie jar". But they said the French conducted far more commercial espionage in America than the United States did in France. They also accused the French Government of deliberately leaking this story in an attempt to divert attention from a phone-tapping scandal engulfing the Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur.



Juppé: "Scandalised" at leak to the press

The controversy was last night moving to the centre of France's presidential election campaign. The French press also speculated yesterday that the affair had been deliberately leaked by a Government keen to turn attention from its own problems.

Diplomats said spying was relatively common, even between allies such as France and the United States, but that the resulting disputes were usually dealt with discreetly. It was unprecedented for such claims to be made public, as they were by *Le Monde*.

In a report on Wednesday, later confirmed by the French Government, the newspaper said four diplomats — a counsellor, two first secretaries and a second secretary — and a fifth American attached to the embassy in Paris, had been identified as spies. They had engaged in economic, military and political espionage, targeting the audiovisual, communications and defence sectors, according to a dossier drawn up by France's counter-espionage service and handed to *Le Monde*.

France and America have tacitly admitted that such activities are an integral part of international politics. But the US State Department said: "The treatment of this affair in France is contrary to the approach that allies have adopted in the past to resolve delicate affairs."

In a statement on Wednesday night, the French Foreign and Interior Ministries insisted they had merely recommended that the five be recalled to Washington. "This does not constitute an expulsion," they said. French Government sources said the Foreign Ministry wanted to find a "solution" that minimised long-term damage to Franco-American relations.

At a press conference, Alain Juppé, Foreign Minister, said he was "scandalised" that the case should have been disclosed to the press.

The Interior Ministry said yesterday it had launched an inquiry into the leaks. However, with Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, portrayed by newspapers as a possible source, commentators in Paris expressed scepticism about the investigation.

The newspaper *Libération* said: "The recipe is as old as the world, but it still works well, especially when the new subject does not lack depth." The left-wing daily said M Balladur's apparent regret at the leaks would have carried greater weight if it had not been obvious that he knew about *Le Monde's* story in advance. It also pointed out that M Juppé, a supporter of Jacques Chirac, M Balladur's rival for the presidency, had been kept away from the counter-espionage operation.

Le Monde shed further light yesterday on the traps set for the CIA by France's counter-espionage service. A French official who, for a short time, was a member of M Balladur's Cabinet, said he was approached by an American agent in 1992. "She was older than me and not very beautiful," he told *Le Monde*.

Speaking at a campaign rally near Paris yesterday, Lionel Jospin, the Socialists' presidential candidate, implicitly accused M Pasqua of revealing the affair. "To get to the origin of the leaks [M Juppe] could perhaps ask the Interior Minister," he said.

End of Cold War leaves CIA in search for a role

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HAS the CIA become a commercial spying operation? The answer, according to Washington officials yesterday, is: not exactly.

The question of just what the CIA has been up to since the Cold War is now an issue of public debate. The spy row provoked heated criticism from past and present intelligence officers that it was France, after all, that had set the pace in the new game of trade espionage. Besides, these officials said, collecting economic data had always been a legitimate goal for intelligence services.

For all the rhetoric, the Clinton Administration and Congress have yet to clarify just how much the CIA should be engaged in commercial spying and how much the national interest is served when set against the risk of upsetting allies.

The subject will be studied in detail by a presidential commission that was formed recently to evaluate the entire role and mission of the intelligence community in the post-Cold War era.

The Americans insist that they draw a fine but significant distinction between the way they engage in economic spying compared to France, Japan and several other countries. Officials said CIA agents do not steal proprietary secrets to pass along to private companies. Rather, the CIA simply seeks information to enable the American Government to help American businesses compete on a level playing field.

In the latest kerfuffle, the CIA agents accused of bribing French officials were apparently trying to discover France's negotiating strategy in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks at which the French Government was stubbornly resisting the removal of agricultural subsidies and blocking the marketing of American films and television programmes in France.

This could be said to fall under the heading of pursuing national economic interests. Less clear is the other French allegation that CIA agents recruited a technician with France Télécom to learn technical details and structures about its telecommunications network overseas. Did this amount to trying to pilfer commercial secrets? Or did it fall into a grey area? James Woolsey, who resigned last month as CIA director, has admitted that determining how far the agency should go in economic espionage is "the hottest current topic in intelligence policy". It was he who declared that the CIA would not share commercial secrets with the private sector.

Mr Woolsey was supported by Robert Gates, his predecessor at the CIA, who asserted that the US intelligence community "does not, should not and will not" engage in industrial spying. That leaves the question of what else should the CIA's 22,000 employees be doing. Mr Woolsey promised that the agency would keep watch on those who spy on US companies or bribe their way to obtain contracts, to the disadvantage of US workers.

The CIA think it has discovered an example of unfair bidding last spring, and alleged that the French were bribing Brazilian officials to win a huge telecommunications project in the Amazon. After the corruption was revealed to the Brazilian Government, a US firm matched the French bid and won the contract.



Picasso's *Mère et enfant*. Christie's estimate its auction value at $10 million

Harriman to auction French impressionist masterpieces

BY IAN BRODIE

PAMELA HARRIMAN, the US Ambassador to France who is locked in a legal struggle involving millions of dollars with her late husband's family, has put three of the finest paintings in her collection up for auction.

Christie's in New York said yesterday that the trio, by Picasso, Renoir and Matisse, were expected to fetch up to a $20 million (12.8 million) between them.

This is exactly the sum sought in one of two lawsuits brought against Mrs Harriman by 17 heirs of W. Averell Harriman, her third husband. He was an outstanding diplomat and financier, with a family fortune from the Union Pacific railway plus the proceeds of his own skills on Wall Street. He died nine years ago, aged 94, bequeathing $65 million to Pamela, and all but cutting his children out of the will.

Lawyers refused to comment on whether Mrs Harriman was selling off assets to settle the lawsuits, but she has been portrayed as growing weary of the dispute that is a distraction from her diplomatic duties. American press reports have said that her lavish lifestyle and financial losses have caused her some difficulty. Now 74, Mrs Harriman's first husband was Randolph Churchill, the son of Sir Winston. Her second was Leland Hayward, a Broadway promoter, and she was linked romantically with other rich and famous men before marrying Mr Harriman.



Harriman: faces suits from 17 family heirs

He was a leading art collector. His second wife, Marie, acquired the Picasso and the Renoir now up for auction. She was stepmother of the two Harriman daughters who, along with six grandchildren and ten greatgrandchildren, are suing Pamela as executor of the estate. They accuse her of squandering up to $20 million through bad investments, including a rundown resort hotel and a failed plastics company, and of borrowing another $15 million, to which she was ineligible, from other trusts.

The heirs have also sued the estate's three trustees. Two, Clark Clifford and Paul Warnke, are distinguished Washington lawyers and the third, William Rich, is a New York financial adviser. They and Mrs Harriman all deny any wrongdoing.

In addition to selling the works of art, Mrs Harriman has put her Georgetown mansion in Washington on the market for an asking price of $5.2 million.

Picasso's *Mère et enfant*, painted in 1922 and one of the finest from his classic period, is the most valuable of the paintings to be sold at the auction in New York on May 11. The other two are: Renoir's *Portrait de Mademoiselle Demarsy* (1882), a study of a young actress of the *Comédie Française* and Matisse's *Le chapeau bleu* (1944), showing a seated model in a flowing white gown.

Europe seeks a place on Internet

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

THE Group of Seven leading industrial nations meets here today to try to create an international strategy to ensure that political indecision does not block the information super-highway. The G7 also hopes that publicity may help to popularise the information super-highway, a concept that to most Europeans at least, seems opaque.

America is far ahead in the race to create an information society, helped by a deregulated and competitive telecommunications infrastructure, and strong bi-partisan support. Al Gore, the Vice-President, last year introduced the National Information Infrastructure, a blueprint to take the super-highway into a regulatory framework. Newt Gingrich, the Republican House majority leader, has gone a step further by putting proceedings in Congress on to the Internet, an attempt to bridge the information gap between Washington and the rest of the country.

Europe, by contrast is preoccupied with creating the technical and regulatory preconditions, such as the privatisation and deregulation of the telecommunications sector — a process that remains slow and cumbersome.

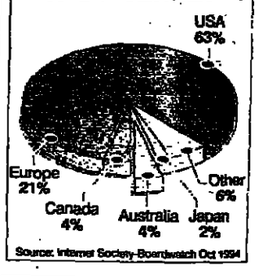
David Ward, a former adviser to the late John Smith, the former Labour Party leader, said the EU largely ignored the potential of embryonic technology to inform the European public of what was going on in the EU. "Scant attention is paid to the role of public information as a driving force behind the information society," said Mr Ward, now executive director of MacLennan Ward Research, a UK political consultancy.

One issue of inevitable controversy is the question of the need to preserve Europe's cultural identity, a French priority.

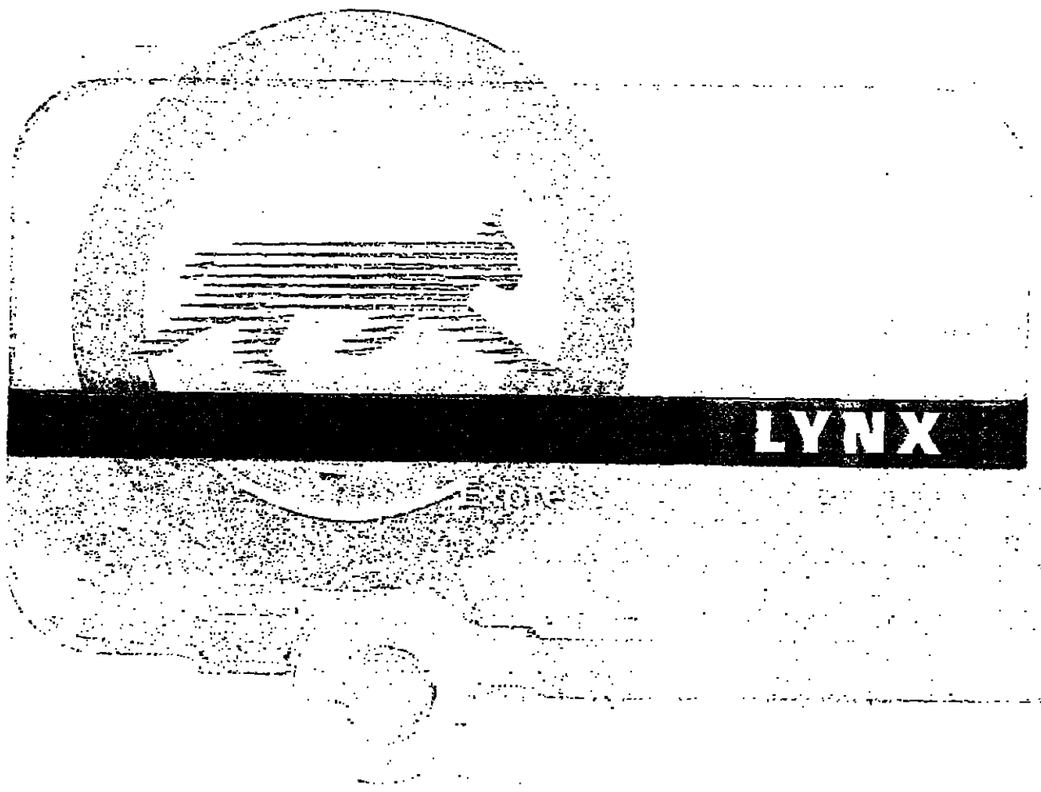
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Infotech pages 36, 37

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Belgium's bribe row threatens politicians

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

A SLOW-BURNING but devastating political scandal is wreaking havoc in Belgium's political class, threatening the careers of the country's two most prominent international officials: Willy Claes, the Secretary-General of Nato and Karel van Miert, a European Commissioner.

The crisis seems sure to dominate a general election which has been hurriedly brought forward to May. Casualties of the affair so far include two Socialist parties, three government ministers and the reputation of the entire political system.

Mr Van Miert and Mr Claes belonged to an inner group which ran the Flemish Socialist party, whose current leaders are falling over themselves to explain embarrassing evidence, emerging over the past week, that its officials took money from the Italian helicopter firm Agusta. The Italians were trying to sell 46 attack and reconnaissance helicopters to the Belgian Army in 1988, and the party's treasurer has admitted that he accepted £1 million fro the Italians.

Mr Claes and his colleagues denied any knowledge of the money, but have now admitted that the offer of funds was discussed, although they say it was rejected. The party's treasurer says he took the money without telling anyone, and spent it rescuing the party's ailing commercial operations. Money went to prop up *De Morgen*, a Flemish newspaper then tied to the Socialists. The newspaper's journalists have this week found themselves investigating the sources of their own finance.

The Agusta scandal, which involves allegations not only of bribery but also murder, money-laundering and blackmail, last year forced the resignation of three ministers belonging to the French-speaking Socialist party.

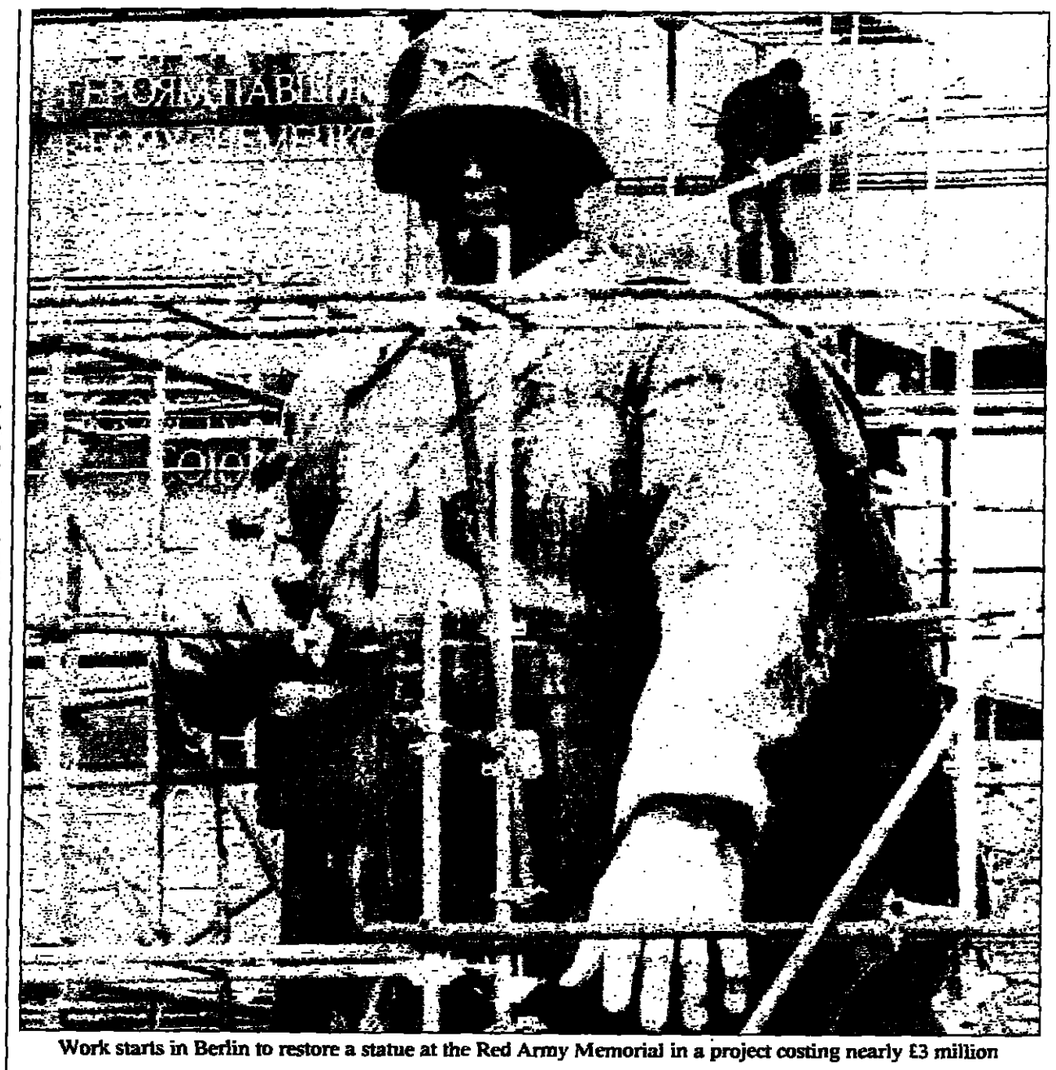
The investigation has been running for three and a half years and no one has yet stood trial. But only a woman of unusual determination has taken matters this far. Véronique Ancia, an elegant, dark-haired investigating magistrate, has slowly emerged as a national heroine for shining a little light into the shadowy recesses of Belgium's political life.

Belgium's media have revelled in the spectacle of a determined, 39-year-old working mother publicly washing the dirty linen of the country's male-dominated elite. Mrs Ancia drew the case by accident. She was on duty in July 1991 when a still-unidentified gunman shot dead André Cools, the undisputed boss of Socialist politics in Liège. Belgium's second city, the birthplace of Inspector Maigret's creator Georges Simenon and an unemployment blackspot, is now earning a reputation for kickbacks as well as smokestacks. Belgians have nicknamed it "Palermo-on-the-Meuse".

Mrs Ancia discarded distracting fantasies about Middle Eastern arms dealing or crimes of passion which flourished to explain the murder of the powerful Mr Cools, and found herself following money and motive through the political underground. Below the level of ordinary political and parliamentary life, another world had come into existence to keep money flowing to Belgium's permanently penurious parties. In the secretive world of Italian petty crooks, chauffeurs and shell companies, Mr Cools had been a kingpin.

Antonio di Pietro, a leading Italian corruption investigator, gave Mrs Ancia her break when he passed over documents seized from Agusta's Italian offices which revealed plans to bribe politicians and parties in Brussels. Working in the face of burglary attempts on her team's offices, threats and legal obstruction, Mrs Ancia has slowly peeled several veils away from the elaborate system of illegally financing political parties.

Nato has confined itself to repeating Mr Claes's denial of any wrongdoing. But the alliance's diplomats and officials are privately nervous that a long inquiry will distract one of its key players at a time when negotiations over Nato's eastward expansion and ties with Russia are intensifying.



Work starts in Berlin to restore a statue at the Red Army Memorial in a project costing nearly £3 million

Yeltsin promises more money to battered military

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin said yesterday that Russia's armed forces were in danger of disintegrating and promised extra funds to prop up the battered and demoralised military.

Speaking after a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow, the Russian leader used National Army Day to try to reassure disillusioned and potentially mutinous soldiers that he had their interests at heart.

"The army is starting to disintegrate a bit. We have to be tough and firm so military people believe that there will be reforms," he said, promising to find extra resources to spend on equipment, training and housing. "As President and Commander-in-Chief, I am prepared personally to control the course of the reforms."

Although the guard of honour for the ceremony outside the Kremlin appeared well-drilled and highly disciplined, the Russian leader has set himself an enormous task if he hopes to resurrect the rest of the army. After its disastrous 11-week campaign in Chechenia, where more than 1,000 soldiers died, it is embittered and potentially vengeful.

What the Kremlin fears most is that the disaffected military, which in several parts of the country has refused to obey Moscow's orders to fight in Chechenia, could be manipulated by the Government's political opponents to mount a challenge to its authority.

However, it is still not clear how President Yeltsin plans to transform the battered remnants of the once mighty army into a force capable of protecting Russia and dealing with insurgencies.

Military experts in Russia and abroad agree that the army needs to be turned into a smaller, better-equipped, better-trained force, preferably under a civilian defence minister.

Aleksandr Konovalov, director of military policy at the USA-Canada Institute in Moscow, said Russia needed to undertake the sort of reforms the US military conducted after the Vietnam War.

So far, the Russian leadership has shown little inclination to tackle the task. President Yeltsin has proposed subordinating the general staff to his direct command — a move likely to please Kremlin bureaucrats but unlikely to have much practical effect on the rank and file. General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister responsible for the Chechen campaign, clearly hopes to use the armed forces' crisis to secure a bigger slice of this year's budget.

French Navy halts Greenpeace protest

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH commandos stormed a Greenpeace ship, cut its anchor and towed it out of Cherbourg yesterday, evoking memories of French action against the environmental group's *Rainbow Warrior*, off New Zealand ten years ago.

Greenpeace had sought to prevent a freighter loaded with radioactive nuclear waste from setting sail from the Channel port for Japan. The organisation accused the French navy of ramming its ship, the *Moby Dick*, but there was no independent verification of this claim. A number of protesters were taken ashore for questioning.

The *Moby Dick* had initially delayed the British freighter's pre-dawn arrival at the port. But after it was seized, the nuclear waste was loaded on to the freighter "without incident", French authorities said.

The French navy said that Greenpeace only managed to delay the freighter by a few minutes.

The company had earlier won a court judgment in Cherbourg which ruled that protesters would face fines of up to 300,000 francs (£36,765) if they approached they freighter.

Greenpeace says it plans to follow the vessel, *Pacific Pintail*, on its two-month journey to Japan, even though the route is shrouded in secrecy. On board is the first of a series of shipments of waste that will be transported between France and Japan over the next 15 years.

Briton defends Baghdad trade link

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE leader of a British business delegation to Iraq yesterday defended the visit, saying that their "successful" mission had been essential to prevent the loss of Britain's once-lucrative market to fierce competition.

The "exploratory" five-day British mission came as Rolf Ekeus, the top United Nations weapons inspector, accused Iraq of dishonesty in its germ warfare programme, dashing Baghdad's hopes that crippling trade sanctions will soon be eased. His charge follows a scathing UN report on Tuesday which accused Iraq of "complete failure" in respecting human rights.

Edmund Sykes, of the Iraqi British Interests Group, insisted that British businessmen would continue to lobby the Government to ease pressure on Baghdad. The 26-member group has arrived in Jordan.

Mr Sykes added that the most important conclusion to draw from the trip was that it had succeeded in renewing ties. "If Britain had delayed very much longer in renewing contact with the Iraqi people it is probable that a great deal of potential market share would be lost forever."

Mr Ekeus, who left Baghdad after a four-day visit, was less successful. "I do not say we had any progress on germ warfare," he said. His damaging assessment will disappoint, but not deter hundreds of European and other businessmen in Baghdad who are competing for projects that cannot begin until the embargo is lifted.

The UN Security Council will not consider an easing of sanctions until Mr Ekeus confirms that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction. Even then, the United States has linked easing of the embargo to an improvement in Iraq's human rights record.

Mr Sykes, who said he will lead another trip to Iraq by May, said delegates were given an "immense" shopping list from oil and other ministries.

☐ **New York:** Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador at the UN, visits Britain today at the start of a six-nation trip to shore up support in the Security Council for continued sanctions on Iraq.

Madrid agrees to revamp gallery

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE Spanish Ministry of Culture has finally won approval for a long overdue £100-million project to reorganise and extend the Prado in Madrid, one of the world's finest art museums.

An international competition will be staged to appoint an architect to implement the outline plans that will double the 175-year-old Prado's space. At present the decaying gallery can only exhibit a tenth of its collection of nearly 20,000 works of art.

Carmen Alborch, 46, the Minister of Culture, has called for tenders after a friend of one the gallery's directors produced an unsatisfactory plan to extend the neo-classical palace. Prospective architects have until March 30 to register, and until September 30 to submit their projects to a panel of government officials and architects. The panel will make its choice during December and the scheme is expected to take at least six years to complete.

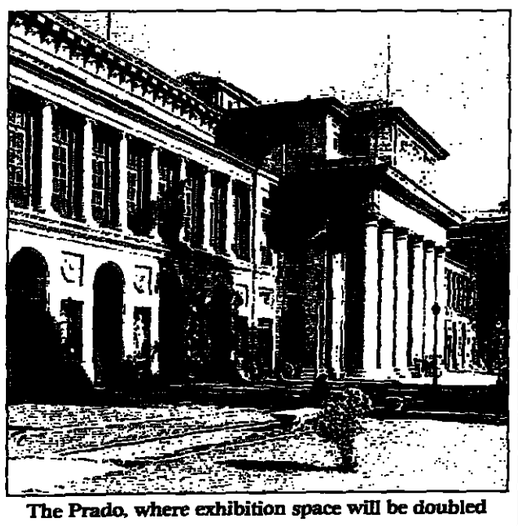
The actual Prado building, begun in the reign of Carlos III as a natural science museum in 1775 by the architect Juan de Villanueva, will be extended and linked to three nearby sites: the existing 19th-century gallery in the Casón del Buen Retiro; the cloisters of the San Jerónimo church and the Army Museum, which is to be vacated by the Ministry of Defence.

After years of neglect, with over £350 million spent on the neighbouring Thyssen collection two years ago and similar amounts allocated to the new Reina Sofia modern art museum, the Prado will finally regain its self-esteem.

Last month the Ministry of Culture brought out a £5 ticket valid for all three museums, which are within walking distance of each other. It has also been decided to make 1881 — the year of Picasso's birth — the dividing date between the Prado and the Reina Sofia. A special panel will decide the destination of artists whose works straddle the date.

"The Prado is one of Europe's biggest art museums, after the Louvre and the Hermitage," Mari Puri Ramos, spokeswoman for the Prado, said yesterday. "It boasts the greatest number and concentration of paintings by Velázquez, Goya, Rubens and El Greco."

Some 3,200 works are on loan to galleries and Spanish embassies around the world as well as to official buildings in Spain.



The Prado, where exhibition space will be doubled

Italy puts up taxes to tackle deficit

FROM REUTER IN ROME

LAMBERTO Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, raised taxes and cut spending in a 20,000 billion lire (£7.8 billion) emergency budget yesterday designed to get to grips with Italy's huge public deficit.

The former central banker urged the country's bickering political parties to give the mini-budget swift approval in Parliament, where his predecessor, Silvio Berlusconi, is threatening to oppose it.

"When your house is burning, you don't wait one or two months to put out the fire," he said, adding that he did not rule out using confidence votes to ram the package through.

He announced a 4.5 pence rise per litre in duty on two grades of petrol, raised two bands of VAT from 9 to 10 per cent and 13 to 16 per cent and increased corporate tax to 37 per cent from 36.

The package was drawn up in the form of a decree, which has immediate effect but must be approved by Parliament within 60 days to have lasting force. It is one of four points on a limited policy agenda which Signor Dini has said he will carry out and then step down.

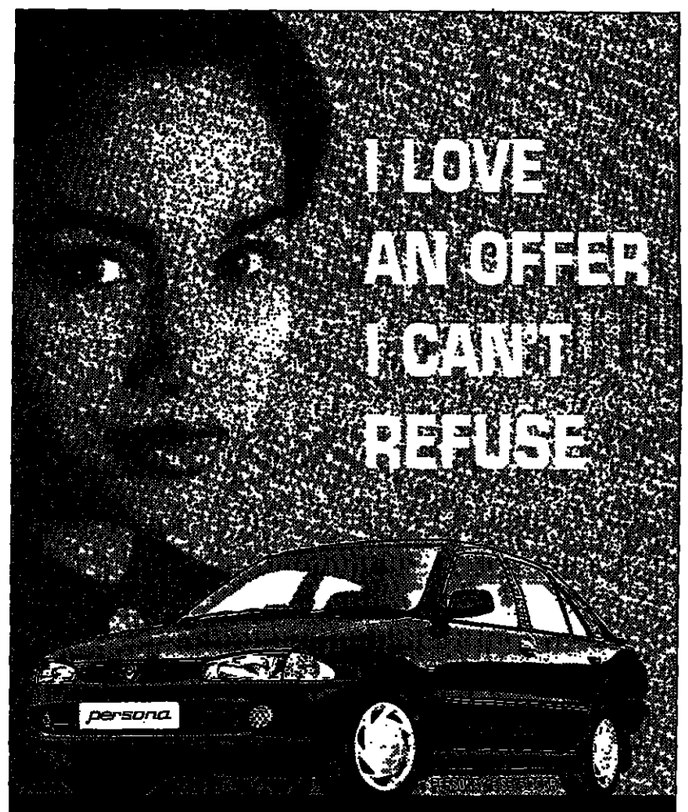
East European birth rates fall

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BUDAPEST

THE collapse of communism has led women in Eastern Europe to participate in free-market economies in a way unthinkable a few years ago. But while many are postponing families to concentrate on their careers, others are holding back from marriage and motherhood because they cannot afford it.

Either way, the region's birth rate is plunging. Fertility rates are also falling, particularly in Hungary, Slovenia, Romania and Russia.

Fertility in Hungary and Slovenia, two of the most advanced Central European countries, has been declining since the 1980s. By 1993 the rate, measuring the average number of children born to women of child-rearing age, was down to 1.7 per woman in Hungary and 1.3 in Slovenia. The 1997 figure for Britain was 1.8. One of the most startling declines has been in Russia, sliding from a fertility rate of 1.9 in 1990 to 1.35 in 1993. "This is a result of the transition to a market economy. People don't want to marry during a time of political turmoil and if they do, they then wait to have children," said Miroslav Macura, a United Nations population official. A 2.1 rate is necessary to maintain the population level in any country.



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Saint Irene sweeps clean

John Phillips meets the Speaker of the Italian Parliament; a fervent advocate of Catholic values, designer clothes and less pomposity

CHRISTOPHER WARDE-JONES



Irene Pivetti: "The obsessive attention with my private life and how I dress reduces the dignity of the Speaker"

At 31 Irene Pivetti is the youngest ever Speaker of Italy's Parliament. Now this scourge of corrupt politicians in her native Milan may become the country's first woman Prime Minister. She is plotting to lead a centrist alliance of her party, the Northern League devolutionist movement, and the Popular Party (PPI) into a general election that commentators agree is only months away.

"Saint Irene", as the media have dubbed her, is an ardent Catholic who has battled against *maschilismo* (male prejudice) and presided unbendingly over 600 unruly and often lecherous Italian MPs.

"I have never thought whether to be a feminist or not. The problem does not interest me at all," she told me, in the first interview she has given to a foreign newspaper.

> 'I had to tell the deputies to stop using their mobile phones'

Sitting demurely on a baroque sofa in her office in the Montecitorio palace, she acknowledges that "certainly *maschilismo* is very evident, above all in what is reported by journalists. For example, the obsessive attention with my private life, how I dress and my personal tastes. All this reduces the dignity of the Speaker, and wouldn't have happened if I were a man."

Nevertheless, her Hermès scarves and cream knee-length suits have become her trademark style, now imitated by the teenage girls who prance on prime-time television shows. But underneath the scarf a Vendée cross hangs round her neck, its bleeding heart commemorating the 1793 Catholic peasant uprising against the French Revolution. For her the Revolution represents "the start of the gulags", and the uprising "great Christian heroism".

Signora Pivetti considers her abiding achievement during her ten months as Speaker (number three in the state hierarchy) is the rebuilding of Italians' faith in Parliament after their corrupt old politicians were swept away by the *tangentopoli* (bribe city) scandal. She has opened Montecitorio to the public, stripped what she considers salacious works of art from its walls, and invited poets to give readings. And, in a move to deflate pomposity, she has ordered MPs no longer to refer to each other as *onorevole* (honourable) but merely *deputato* (deputy).

"These are little signs but without doubt they are significant. I hope that the people feel a bit closer to Parliament. Let's not forget that in the last legislature 20 per cent of parliamentarians were under criminal investigation. Without doubt Parliament's credibility had suffered."

She laughs recalling when MPs came to blows. "It happened once, though sometimes there are rather animated discussions. On the whole Parliament has behaved in a civil enough manner. A certain decorum is important to me. I asked deputies not to use cellular telephones. This ban was respected."

Signora Pivetti comes from a solid middle-class background. Her father is a television director, mostly for Catholic TV stations, while her mother is the actress, Grazia Gabrielli. Her involvement in politics began as a student at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, though it certainly did not interfere with her studies: she graduated *cum laude* in literature and philology. And it was here that she met Paolo Taranta, whom she married in 1988. After a brief career in journalism Signora Pivetti was elected to Parliament in 1992, which was also the year she separated from her banker husband, hence all the speculation about her private life. There are reports that she has made a formal plea to the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical court for an annulment.

He has been quoted as saying that political differences played a part in their separation but also their careers, which took them to different countries. Signora Pivetti acknowledges that politics takes its toll on those who lack the support network Italian women used to enjoy from spouse, children and family.

"There's no doubt that your life suffers. But I believe the problem is the same everywhere. In reality I didn't choose a political career. It chose me. They told me two days in advance that I would be a candidate for Speaker. I certainly have put a lot of energy into my work but I don't believe I have any regrets."

Her style as Speaker, a post which is supposed to be above party politics, has been unorthodox. She was heavily criticised when at her party's congress this month she defended Umberto Bossi, the leader of the Northern League, and his decision to topple Silvio Berlusconi's government. She herself accused the media tycoon flatly of "going against the interests of democracy". She is unrepentant, saying she would repeat her outburst — "Yes certainly, and I would add a few details I forgot — though making it clear I was speaking in a personal capacity, of course."

All this makes it highly uncertain whether she would be re-elected to the post. Anyway, Signora Pivetti is evidently itching to return to the party political fray. She confirms persistent reports that, if the President, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, dissolves Parliament, she hopes to lead a new "third pole" (with the blessing of Signor Bossi) made up of the League and the Italian Popular Party, the former Christian Democrats. "I am certainly a person of the centre... I believe in Italy that Catholics are searching for a leader."

The Vatican itself has looked askance at this unruly Christian with her sympathy for the traditionalist leader, the late Marcel Lefebvre, and her criticism of the Archbishop of Milan, for too easily absolving the corrupt of their sins. But Vatican sources say that as Speaker she has since impressed the Roman Curia.

"The Church has a right to say what is good and what is bad," she says, "but it is another thing to intervene in the equilibrium between political parties." On abortion, though, she is adamant: "A Catholic can never accept abortion. Everything he can do to avoid it is important."

Signora Pivetti knows she would be a popular alternative to Rocco Buttiglione, the gauche leader of the PPI, and a sexier vote catcher than Romano Prodi, the Catholic industrialist who has announced that he will lead a centre-left coalition.

She believes that anti-trust legislation to curb Signor Berlusconi's virtual monopoly over television is both essential for fair elections and a question of constitutional rights, "something that effects the freedom of citizens."

Saint Irene pours scorn on his recent claim that "there is no more democracy" in Italy. "I would say it is unjust to sound alarms of this kind. Italians are extraordinarily democratic."

Why France falls for a man in a kilt

An auld alliance of treaties, citizenship, armies and claret



MAGNUS LINKLATER

I first discovered the virtues of the "auld alliance" as a student hitch-hiker on Route Nationale No 4 on a drenching Easter weekend. French people are not, on the whole, well-disposed towards the *autostop*, and I had not done well the previous day.

The time had come to reach for the ultimate weapon. It is acknowledged that a Scotsman in a kilt stands a 90 per cent better chance of getting a lift in France than an Englishman wearing trousers. And so it proved. Within minutes of donning the tartan I was in the front seat of a high-powered Peugeot as the driver expressed his admiration for my native country and said that he had once been to Eastbourne.

The alliance between France and Scotland is 700 years old, surviving these days as a dim folk memory of ancient treaties and a shared antipathy towards the English. But there is a bit more to it than that. Last Saturday, BBC Scotland devoted five hours of television to a celebration of France and Scotland. There was a tribute to French surrealism from the Scottish comedian Phil Kay, an exploration of the ancient Franco-Scottish claret trade, and a studio discussion with guests from both countries, which concluded that the Scots were probably closer to the French in their attitudes to Europe than the English. Since this is one of the more contentious planks in the arguments for a Scottish Parliament, it suggests that 700 years of shared prejudices have left their mark.

They go back to a period when the alliance was a political and military reality, when the old adage "stand well with your neighbour, but better with your neighbour's neighbour" meant signing agreements, sending armies and joining campaigns. It also meant joint citizenship. In 1558, when Mary Queen of Scots married Francis II of France, the French Government conceded to Scots the rights of French citizenship, and in the same year the Scots Government reciprocated.

Although the Scots' right to French citizenship was rescinded with the 1789 Revolution, the French remained entitled to joint Scottish (therefore British) nationality until the Entente Cordiale in 1904. Not many, I suspect, know that.

The original treaty of 1295, whose anniversary is being celebrated this year, was drawn up when John Balliol, set up by Edward I as a vassal king in Scotland, turned against his patron and formed an alliance with Philip IV of France — who was already at war with England. The treaty pledged the Scots to invade and harry England if Edward sent forces against Philip.

It was the first step towards the opening of hostilities between Scotland and England which led to Edward's invasion, his temporary conquest, then later the resistance of the Scots under William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. A stronger agreement in 1326, the Treaty of Corbeil, obliged the Scots to make war on England in the event of new hostilities.

For nearly three hundred years the alliance continued, with royal marriages and joint military operations cementing the bond. Again and again the Scots went, often in great numbers, to fight alongside the French. After the defeat at Agincourt, the Scots sent 7,000 men to France and, at Baugé in 1421, helped to prevent the English crossing the Loire and occupying central France.

As a result the Scottish general, the Earl of Douglas, was appointed Lieutenant General of the French forces and was created Duc de Touraine. Later, Sir John Stewart of Darnley led a Scottish contingent under Joan of Arc. The establishment of the *Garde Ecossaise* as the personal bodyguard of the Kings of France dates from this time.

Military alliances led to trade agreements, a tradition whereby Scots noblemen sent their sons to be educated at French universities. The Scottish taste for claret reached such heights in the 17th century that on the streets of Edinburgh it was delivered daily, like milk.

Today its traces are indistinct. But back in the 1960s I was introduced in Paris to an elderly gentleman, quintessentially French, sporting the *légion d'honneur* in his buttonhole. I knew immediately that I was looking at a Scottish face — something about the complexion and the set of the jaw. His name was Colonel François Monroe, late of the Alpine Artillery, and yes, he said, his roots had been in Scotland. How far back? I inquired. "Oh, you know," he shrugged his shoulders, "we had to leave when Cromwell invaded."

THE TIMES

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CARIBBEAN CONNECTION

Connoisseur of white trash, sex and violence

A young American playwright's first work, vilified at home, is being lauded in Britain

MICHAEL POWELL



Letts on the set of *Killer Joe*: "I don't think my characters are bad people."

It is 3am in a Texan trailer park and someone is hollering at the door of one of the filthy mobile homes. A woman in a scanty T-shirt that stops short of her bare buttocks hurries to let in her drug-dealing stepson. He starts to roll a joint, as his obese father emerges yawning, in red underpants, absent-mindedly scratching his genitals.

Within moments father and son have agreed they need money. OK, they will hire Killer Joe to assassinate Momma ("a naggy alcoholic") and collect the insurance money. The hitman demands a retainer: the son decides to offer him the services of his virgin, semi-retarded sister Dottie.



JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

By the end of *Killer Joe*, the first play by Tracy Letts, a 29-year-old Chicago actor, the stage is splattered in blood, nearly all of the five-strong cast has stripped naked and the stepmother has been forced to fellate a chicken bone.

The critics could have been expected to lambast this orgy of sex and violence, as they did to Sarah Kane's *Blasted* at the Royal Court. Instead, the play, which has just completed a short run at the Bush Theatre, has been reviewed ecstatically. "Art of the highest order," wrote Jack Tinker, in the *Daily Mail*; "I loved every minute," said the *Telegraph*; while *The Times*'s view was "You could choose to be sad, but if you are willing to ditch your puritanism ...you are likely to laugh a lot."

All of which has meant that a play which made its debut in a 40-seat theatre in a suburb of Chicago has now transferred to the Vaudeville in the West End, where neighbouring theatres are showing the new Stoppard and *Sunset Boulevard*. It is a bit much for Letts, jetlagged on his first visit to London, to take in. Back home, the play was dismissed in the *Sun Times* as one of the two worst of the year, while *Reader* magazine described the author as "evil".

"The British have the reputation for being puritanical in the States, but you guys are far more liberal than we are," says Letts, inhaling a Marlboro in a shabby, ill-lit dressing room. "When we took the show to Edinburgh there was some Desmond Morris documentary on television about human sexuality. I was shocked by some of the things I saw."

He is only half joking. Despite the breezy amorality of *Killer Joe*'s characters, this is a deeply moral play which, for all its hilarity, has serious points to make. And the themes — matricide, incest, infidelity — are the universal stuff of tragedy.

Letts's inspiration came from a newspaper clipping about a Florida family who decided to murder one member for the insurance and then changed their minds and killed another member, who was ripping them off. "What kind of got me about it was the ease with which they could make such a decision," he says.

The play succeeds in exploring the genesis of this moral inadequacy. "I don't think my characters are bad people. In fact, I have sympathy for them. I find something tragic about them. In a lot of ways they are not solely culpable, because I don't know how you expect people to behave who live in a place where there's no intellectual or spiritual life. It must be hard to sustain your mind when there is nothing to feed it but the television." Throughout the play, the TV set drones in the background. The pathetic father, Ansel, even tries to turn it on while Joe is throttling his wife.

Letts has first-hand experience of such white trash. He was born in Durant, Oklahoma, a hundred miles north of Dallas, where he moved, aged 19, to become an actor. "I still find Dallas the most loathsome place in the land. It is lacking in anything that has to do with culture."

His own upbringing was far from redneck: Letts's parents were both university English teachers, although his father has recently started acting and his mother is publishing a novel ("she's a much better writer than I am"). One brother is a musician in Singapore, the other works in the local WalMart hypermarket. "We don't exactly fit in to Durant, but we have always lived there and we get on fine."

He feels happier, however, in Chicago, the American Mid-West's theatrical capital, where he has acted for nine years with the celebrated Steppenwolf company. "I'm frankly a better actor than a writer," he says, which given the brilliance of *Killer Joe* is quite a proclamation.

Currently, Letts is living in Los Angeles, cautiously touting a few film scripts and performing in the comedian Steve Martin's play *Picasso and the Lapin Agile*.

"Steve was telling me that he has decided to give up screenwriting to become a playwright, because he is so frustrated with losing control over his writing to Hollywood. He said to me: 'They' will look at your play and find all the elements in it that make it different from something else. 'That's their job, to reduce everything to a paste-pudding norm."

It was Martin who provided the funds to take *Killer Joe* to Edinburgh where, ironically, its huge success meant it was immediately reassessed in America. The show's last run off-Broadway barely registered; now it is being mooted for a commercial New York run.

Maybe Letts, whose chain-smoking, skinniness and red hair mark him as more European than American, has found his artistic home here. "It is tempting to come to Europe," he shouts from an ante room, where he is fastidiously running water to extinguish his cigarette. "I toured in Scandinavia and really fell in love with it. But my responsibility as a writer is to do something to make my country better. We Americans are pretty amazing in a sense. What we have done in 200 years is remarkable. But at what cost? It can make you ashamed."

هكذا من الاصل

Sir Alford Houston-Boswall on the day he confronted Mr Al Fayed — and the importance of learning to ski

We always say we bought a school at Harrods


TONY WHITE

Sir Alford and his wife at the gates of the Harrodian School: "To start a school from scratch without a track record was hard enough without these legal problems," he says

In a *Monty Python*-like scene this week, two bailiffs went marching round Harrods earmarking £123,000-worth of leather Chesterfields, faux antique bookcases and suits of armour, all to be seized for auction if Harrods does not pay up the court costs which Sir Alford Houston-Boswall and his wife Eliana incurred in their fight to call their new London prep school "The Harrodian School".

Amusing, but bizarre: who is this wealthy baronet and why does he insist on calling his school the Harrodian? When I rang to arrange a visit, the affable Sir Alford apologised that there would be no children there: they are all on their *vacances de neige* — he had just taken 35 of them to *Les Arcs*. "To be able to ski is a vital social asset — quite as important as an A level," he declared.

He is 47, with no A levels but with Churchillian blue eyes: it is not surprising to learn that, in youth, he was repeatedly befriended by billionaires who happened to be in need of sons and heirs.

Among dozens of prep schools that have sprouted in London in the past decade, the Harrodian is something else again: a handsome, late Georgian house in 25 glorious acres that was once Harrods' sports and social club. It has ancient cedars on the lawn, and the pristine accoutrements of a Hotel Splendide.

There are playing fields, a heated outdoor pool, a full-size theatre and stage, serried ranks of Apple Mac computers, tennis courts, a cricket pavilion, carpets underfoot and dozens of sofas and armchairs where children can sit and play chess and discuss life. French food is served by French staff on red-checked tablecloths with French bread in baskets.

There are no corridors, no uniforms and no bells; if a child even glanced at a clock Lady Houston-Boswall — fair and pretty with an "interpreter's degree" and a flair for teaching French — would feel she had failed. They do not ask staff for diplomas. "All we are interested in is, are they gifted, passionate, talented and charismatic?" The school (fees £6,000 a year) has 100 boys and girls aged from seven to 11, but could accommodate double the number, and a senior school is planned.

Lady Houston-Boswall likes to say that they bought the school in Harrods' sale. What actually happened was that the Houston-Boswalls had been bidding fruitlessly for it for years — sites likes this come up once a lifetime — when one day they went to buy a washing machine in Harrods sale, and spied Mr Al Fayed himself at the foot of an escalator. Sir Alford broke through the bodyguards to shake the proprietorial hand. "He's a man with oodles of charm," says Sir Alford. By coincidence, the sale went through within ten days.

They called it the Harrodian because that is what the building had always been called. "The Lonsdale School" (it is in Lonsdale Road, Barnes) was spoken for. So Harrodian it was, on the prospectuses. And they stuck to their guns because of the manner of Harrods' objection.

"We were told: 'How dare you use our name and try to live off our reputation — cease immediately or we will issue a writ.' To start a school from scratch without a track record was hard enough without this problem," Sir Alford says. He would have been perfectly happy to change the name.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



"The name wasn't important. But when I rang and said 'let's talk it out', Mr Al Fayed sent me to his lawyer. We had to defend ourselves, and we were told we would win."

Win they did: last summer Mr Justice Harman judged that there could be no confusion in parents' minds, and ordered Harrods to pay the Houston-Boswalls' costs. No costs have been paid: hence Monday's hilarious scenes. "If I had been let loose in Harrods," Sir Alford says, "I would not have chosen the furniture department."

His own school experiences were unhappy: the sad rail journey from Paddington at the age of ten, getting beaten in the first week, the tearful telephone call from his mother to tell him his parents' marriage had broken up. His father stopped paying the fees before young Alford had taken his A levels: he had to leave Lindisfarne College and work for his father.

Later they fell out over a business deal so, at 22, he launched out on his own in a Knightsbridge flat, getting a foothold in the international art and antiques world and investing astutely in the Bahamas and elsewhere. "Then the Labour Government got in and everything looked pretty grim," he says. So off he went with his new wife Eliana to New York, where her parents live.

They installed themselves in one of Fifth Avenue's grandest apartment blocks and flourished for several years, seemingly by charming the aforementioned billionaires such as Edgar Bronfman, of Seagrams, and the founder of Stair & Co, the largest antique importer, "who by chance had had a bustup with his son and was looking for someone to buy his way in and take over". Then a partner at Stair, Jules Stein, head of MCA, said: "I could use a man like you in Universal Studios." The Houston-Boswalls went to Hollywood, "but they didn't like the fact that I was Jules Stein's boy". Stein sent him instead to the ageing and reclusive D.K. Ludwig, reputedly the richest man in the world from pulping the Brazilian rainforests, who was looking for someone to take over his empire. But he and Ludwig did not hit it off. "He had not one ounce of a sense of humour," says Sir Alford, "and for me this was a prerequisite.

"I'm not a great person for presenting myself in front of someone saying 'I'm great, I can do anything'." (Perhaps he needed advice from the computer teacher at the Harrodian, who gets the children to type out maxims such as: "The man who wins is the one who thinks he can.")

Instead, the Houston-Boswalls bought a splendid 32-room Manhattan mansion, filled it with Old Master paintings and fine carpets and had more fun in the art world — Sir Alford even lectured on 18th-century rooms and furniture at the Metropolitan Museum of New York — before selling the house for a fabulous sum, and coming home to London in order to get their son Alexander into Westminster.

The strange leap into running schools happened when their son's teacher at Colet Court, Jane Addis, noticed the baronet's rather flash car and asked him to set her up in a pre-prep school. They founded the Merlin School — still going — until one day they heard that the Harrodian, where Merlin pupils did their sport, was closing.

"I said 'Well, I'm not going to stand for that, I'll buy it!' At the time they were asking many millions for it, before the crash, but something told me I would get it. Something said to me, 'this you're going to get'." While the years of negotiations went on, Sir Alford restored a medieval house in the south of France — "a total romance for me" — and taught himself French in order to speak to the builders. They lived in Paris and sent their daughter to a French State school. Why couldn't English schools be like this, where boys and girls easily mixed together, and never wanted to go home?

"All this time I was constantly on the telephone to the House of Fraser, while the building stood empty and rain was coming in and damaging the parquet floors." There was some haggling over the last half million — they are said to have paid £3.5 million — against a higher bidder who wanted to turn it into a swish sports complex, but they got their school.

They found their director of studies, Guy Holloway, a tall lean, bespectacled young idealist of 27, when he came to tutor their daughter in Paris. He had read Eng Lit at Peterhouse, but Mr Holloway says Cambridge students these days are only interested in drinking and partying; he has higher goals for his pupils. He has them learning *Romeo and Juliet* at the age of eight and taking dictation from Donne, Virginia Woolf and *Ulysses*: instead of a Nativity play last Christmas they performed a short version of Euripides' *Bacchae*. "And they learn their lines," said Mr Holloway, snapping his fingers, "just like that.

"These children have to be useful members of society in 15 years' time, in a European culture. We're starting afresh. We have no baggage. We can be creative. Old ideas are depressing and mouldy and frankly they're finished."

Time will tell if they fulfil their aim to achieve "a St Paul's and Westminster-style education, but with a relaxed and unregimented atmosphere". All schools make these claims. As the *Good Schools Guide* says of the Harrodian: "Aims high . . . but too early to judge." The legal problem was not their only teething trouble: the avuncular Billy Howard, retired head of Colet Court, was to have been their head, but they disagreed over the educational ethos. So Eliana, whose own schooldays at the Lycée in New York were gloriously liberal, is now the head.

"My input," says her husband, who is addressed by the children as "Sir Alford", "is the look and feel of the place, and to bring laughter and see that it's a happy place."

"I've had to be a fighter all my life to get to where I am," Sir Alford added. He checks his family motto in Debrett and is cheered to be reminded that it is *Fortiter*: "Boldly".

Pity poor Stephen Fry

When the actor-writer returns, he will find a welcome from his fans

As I write, the latest sighting of Stephen Fry is from a man who rang Radio 4 to reveal that Fry took ship at Ramsgate on Monday; and the latest reassurance is from his parents, who are not worried. By now, no doubt, reports will be flooding in: Fry in Montmartre, in Tuscany, in Baden-Baden; Fry in a ginger beard and slouch hat, hanging out with Lord Lucan and Shergar in a backstreet bar in Casablanca.

Personally, I hope nobody finds him until he is good and ready. He did his flit, after all, with considerable grace. After the Saturday performance of *Cell Mates* and his grief at its reviews, he stayed for a charity commitment on Sunday, narrating *Peter and the Wolf*; then left apologetic letters to playwright, agent and friends, saying that "disappearing is better than putting my head in a gas oven". He is right. It is. You keep on running, Stephen, for just as long as you want.

It is hard, as a journalist, properly to express sympathy. Fry makes no secret of his loathing for the "valueless, resentful and unpleasant" glut of personal criticism in the press; he has said that the word "byline" derives from "bile", and compared newspapers to used lavatory paper. He has repeatedly claimed not to read them any more, but clearly does, with pain; he is prone to lash out intemperately himself. On last week's *A Bit of Fry and Laurie* he seemed to want to drown Rupert Murdoch, and compared Andrew Neil to cat-sick on a duvet. He also gives dangerously confessional interviews, and himself writes for the hated press. Last weekend we could read a piece by Fry criticising journalists for criticising people like him, and saying that he knows there will be "another hate piece written about me. 'So he thinks he's above journalism, does he'. . .?"



LIBBY PURVES

Poor devil. He is wrong to care so much, but he may be right to recoil from the thin, sour, hateful tone of many columns and profiles. If you are normal and read only one newspaper you may be baffled by all this, because you see it only in diluted form. But if, as I do, you live amid a pile of dog-eared cuttings, you may agree that jeering has become a tad too fashionable. Myself, I blame *Hello!* magazine, whose meteoric success in the 1980s with creeping sycophancy caused a collective nervous breakdown among other journalists, and an earnest desire never, ever, to be seen to approve or forgive.

These days, even serious critics get personal. Listen to this chap from the *Financial Times*: "You watch all those unyielding and unbending cubic feet of Fry's great body, and you listen to that suave, clubbable, heartless *basso profondo* voice of his, and time passes very slowly." Is that any way to talk to a man with an often-confessed problem of physical embarrassment, who is having his first go at West End acting? If we are so tenderhearted about veal calves, why do we try so hard to make performers unhappy? Especially since a moment's reflection reveals that the average thespian gives considerably more joy and gaiety to the nation than his denigrators. On *The World at One* yesterday they had a grumbly critic called Steve someone, who said in a grey, flat little voice that *Cell Mates* "Er, didn't um, sparkle". At least, Stephen Fry was trying. Taking a risk.

He should know all this; the bad news is that he let it get on top of him, and the good news is that he had the self-respect to run for cover instead of soldiering on to a worse collapse. Without yielding to the temptation of psychobabble, I would point out that on my own rough scale of performer-paranoia risk, he scores four bullseyes. He has been advancing on too many fronts at once — novels, films, TV, West End. He has no home life (a partner's role is to inveigh so violently against your critics that you actually start taking their side). He overworks. And he doesn't really need the money any more, since he made a fortune from *Me and My Girl*. This is a dangerous situation: one of the most consoling thoughts when you get panned in the public prints is to think: "Ah well, I got paid." If the money stops mattering, you probably need approval even more.

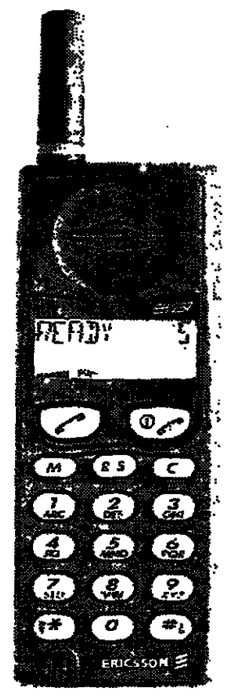
Inventive artists often tend to graze dangerously close to the cliff edge. They need a strategy for coping when the cracks appear. I wish that Fry could have had a drink at the critical moment with that great survivor of criticism, Terry Wogan.

Whenever I get sneered at publicly I close my pricking eyes and visualise that great man, lolling on his sofa once to answer my questions about whether *Wogan* on television was a failure. "Ah, ever the carping word," he said, smiling sleepily. "Remember now, *keeping people amused is an inexact science*."

That might help. So might the Tinkerbell solution, in which members of the public write in by the hundred to say what pleasure Stephen Fry has given them, and wishing him well. When he comes back, his agent will have a sackful of such letters. They will make him feel a lot better.

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How Nolan failed to find the facts

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

says more evidence is needed of what is wrong in public life

The gap between public worries and the self-contained worlds of *Whitehall and Westminster* is widening by the day. Nothing demonstrates this more sharply than the public hearings before Lord Nolan's Committee on *Standards in Public Life*, which ended yesterday.

In the real world, there is an unending flow of revelations of alleged greed, inefficiency *and sleaze in high places. As if* on a different planet, Lord Nolan said even before his committee began to call witnesses that "this country has long enjoyed a reputation for the honour and integrity of its public institutions . . . based *upon a widely shared tradition* of public service".

The Committee concluded before it had even started that the Marconi scandal of 1912 *was "far more serious than* any of the cases which have been publicised over recent *months"*. In fact, however, the Marconi affair was tame by *current standards*.

Yet scandals that would have caused uproar before the First World War are so common today that they go almost unnoticed. The latest stage in the Foxley case — involving a conviction for bribes *amounting to more* than £1 million to a former Ministry of Defence official — was almost squeez*ed out of the press*. It was one of the largest cases of public bribery in British history.

In Nottingham, the university authorities were due to debate whether to hold an inquiry into the issues raised by the suicide of Professor David Regan. The Thatcherite professor had left a series of letters drawing attention to what he considered intolerable conditions at the university and by implication to declining standards of conduct in higher education. Additionally, two colleges in the Midlands were embroiled in scandals involving expenses and the purchase of a nightclub. Reports about an investigation into "potentially unusual payments" in six more further education colleges were the subject of a lead story in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.

The bosses of privatised power companies have been in the news for multimillion pound profits from share options. The £387,000 spent on renovating Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson's official residence in Gloucestershire led to further headlines.

As if all this were not enough, there were also Lord Lester's allegations of "cash for questions" in the Lords, the *latest batch of stories about the* pay of executives in the health service, and the controversy over the Government's proposed salary increases for top civil servants. *In other fields*, the Public Accounts Committee published its concern about alleged fraud in the Overseas Development Administration (amounting to nearly £1 million).

It is only to be expected that Conservative witnesses before the Nolan committee insist — correctly — that many such reports about sleaze are unproven. Moreover, as Sir Norman Fowler showed in his sharp and well-documented answer to Lord Thomson of Monifieth, Labour Party appointees to quangos also have much to answer for.

What is more surprising and unfortunate is that the committee has taken almost *no steps to establish the facts* about the extent of corruption in British public life. Apart from employing a team at Birmingham University to analyse appointments to quangos and a graduate student at Essex University, it has com*missioned no research at all. It* is relying on submissions from the public and on its witnesses. Some members of the committee acknowledge that the re*sults of this traditional method* of procedure will inevitably be impressionistic.

Three reasons are given by the committee for its refusal to conduct a *systematic* review. All are bogus. First, and most ingenious, is the assertion that Nolan's function is to develop new codes of conduct for MPs and public officials — in other words, to suggest remedies. It is possible to do this (the argu*ment goes) without* knowing how much corruption actually exists and where. According to this *approach, the pre*scription of a cure does not depend on establishing the nature and the extent of the disease.

> What happens if witnesses disagree about the problem?

A second argument against examining the facts is that the terms of reference prevent the committee considering individual cases. Yet there are ways for factual assessments to be presented without smearing individuals. MPs and officials are often willing to be remarkably frank about their financial affairs and problems (and those of colleagues) provided that they know they will not be identified.

The third argument for *avoiding a thorough in*vestigation is that it is sufficient for Lord Nolan and his colleagues to rely on the judgment of the senior figures appearing as witnesses. The trouble here is the wild variation between different witnesses. To Lord Blake, current problems of corruption "pale into *insignificance" beside those of* Edwardian times. By contrast, the chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, Robert Sheldon, reportedly takes the view that standards of public conduct have fallen to their lowest level since the creation of the modern Civil Service in the 19th century.

The collection of opinions — however distinguished the witnesses — is of limited value if *they are not backed by evi*dence. It would have been in the public interest (and, incidentally, in the Government's interest too) if the committee *had given greater priority to* the task of investigation. Only then could the public have slept soundly in their beds.

The author is senior research fellow of Brunel University.

Are my references lost on you?

The common stock of familiar phrases is gradually being depleted, writes **Philip Howard**

Europhobes and Europhiles are creating Eurofatigue. Many regard them as the most *tedious Eurobores since the Channel* Tunnel or even the Euromanthian Boar, which only Hercules was strong enough to silence. Their pullulating Euro-prefix fits our mass soundbite rhetoric. But a previous political nervous breakdown, in *which a party in power tore itself* apart, had nicer rhetoric for its dissidents. Instead of describing his bandits, whether whipless or in Cabinet, as bastards or being several apples short of a picnic, John Major could try Adullamites. It *describes them precisely and elegant*ly. But not everyone would recognise the reference.

In 1866 John Russell's Government fell because of the implacable opposition to electoral reform of two handfuls of his Liberal supporters. John Bright, the Quaker reformer and orator, made the first humorous speech of his life.

Sadly, its humour has faded. *The Times* (exceptionally) reported "great laughter" when he declared that the rebellious party of two reminded him of the Scotch terrier, which was so covered with hair that you could not tell which was the head and which was the tail of it. The punch of the gag may have depended on its delivery and the fact that it was delivered by such a solemn statesman.

Bright said that the rebel leader had retired into his political Cave of Adullam. His reference was to the malcontents who joined David when he was being hunted by Saul. "And everyone that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him." His phrase created sensation. *The Times* devoted a page to his speech, and Adullamite and Cave passed into the stock of political cliché to describe rebels with their various discontents, resentments and ambitions.

That stock of familiar stories which rang a bell with everyone — whether from scripture, nursery rhymes, fables or romances — has been depleted. Fans of the Blur may not recognise the music of Michael Tippett. Even those with a general knowledge of scripture and the classics have difficulty in recognising some of the enchanting stories painted by Nicolas Poussin. Why is the infant Moses dancing on Pharaoh's crown? What goddess up aloft rests with elbow propped nonchalantly on a cloud, while blind Orion strides towards the rising sun with a boy standing on his shoulders? Today one needs at least an undergraduate knowledge of Restoration history to decode a seminal English poem such as *Absalom and Achitophel*, and to work out, for instance, that Gath represents the Philistine headquarters of Brussels.

Fragments of the old common stock of Eurostories, such as Noah's Ark and the Trojan Horse, have lived on *into our age of wider* but shallower general knowledge. "Cloud-cuckoo-land", brought to life again in the Cambridge Corn Exchange this week, is still used in modern rhetoric. But we get its story slightly wrong, mistaking the "cuckoo" element to represent battiness in that clever though unfamilial bird. The original Cloud-cuckoo-land was a Utopian, over-the-rainbow Wizard of Oz place, away from the horrors of war and Eurofanaticism. John Bright would have recognised *its pacifist* vision.

In a multicultural society, it has become very difficult to find a reference that will be recognised immediately by everyone. Advertis*ing slogans and jingles seldom* cross frontiers and have short lives, though widely popular ones. Catchphrases do not have the spread or the durability of the old proverbs. Most people in the cinema-going world may have heard of *Natural Born Killers* today, *but they* will have moved on to the succeeding movie *next week*. Mickey Mouse, Father Christmas and the Pope are the most universal images of the modern world, and they have their *limitations* as metaphors or symbols for historical painters, *even supposing* that we had any with a fraction of Poussin's genius.

The Cave of Adullam lies dormant in the microfilms of back numbers of newspapers. My bright young workshadow — fan of the Blur (and, as it happens, Michael Tippett) — passed when asked if she had heard of Adullamites. But that was a masterstroke of political insult when John Bright first thought of it. And even then, *The Times* reported that MPs of that élitist and more narrowly learned age asked him after his speech in which of Shakespeare's plays the Cave was mentioned. And, for all his scriptural knowledge, John Bright had not followed his metaphor to its conclusion: David and his bolshies triumphed in the story. Luckily for democracy, they did not win the battle to prevent reform.

An air force to reckon with

Sweet sirs, the Switzers may be paranoid about defence, but they have a remarkable way of organising it



It is too soon to be sure, but I *think* that the Swiss authorities are coming to the conclusion *that the danger from invasion* of their country by hostile powers has very slightly diminished. The Germans, the French, the Italians, the Austrians — these must naturally be watched day and night for the first sign of such troops massing on the Swiss border — but at Swiss Army Headquarters (and of course Swiss Navy Headquarters as well) there is a slight — very slight — feeling that some relaxation of the precautions against the threat to Switzerland's *existence might not come amiss*.

For instance, very many trilingual scholars of the highest renown have studied the matter and have come to the conclusion that the Second World War has finished; of course, although absolute certainty cannot be claimed, the Swiss trilingual man in the trilingual Swiss street is, albeit carefully, behaving as though there is no longer any use for blackout curtains and bomb-proof air-raid shelters.

May they never again need such things. (Though now I come think of it, they never needed them in the first place, except against the occasional bomb that had gone astray from one or the other of the combatants.)

We laugh at Switzerland, and there is much to laugh at, but that country of some seven million people does have qualities that I think no other nation possesses.

Take, for instance, the passage above, in which I laugh at their solemn determination not to be subjugated by any greedy nation that wants the lush pickings of that calm, sensible place. (Dull, yes; but calm and sensible.) We laugh, but they don't, though they must see as clearly as everybody does the absurdity of arming up to the teeth in case Austria takes it into her head to bombard Switzerland with *Sachertorte*.

They don't laugh at themselves, I said. But there is a reason. In some ways Switzerland resembles Israel: the Jewish State makes clear that it does not ask for help against her enemies, as her enemies, over the years, have discovered. Much of that could be said about Switzerland (though Switzerland, unlike Israel, pays her own way). But, you say, Switzerland has no enemies. No, but the Switzers have long memories, *and they* remember that when the whole of Europe had vanished into the darkness and evil of Nazism, one light, and one only, still bravely shone.

But I learn from Mr Robert Kroon, in the *International Herald Tribune*, that a mighty upheaval impends in the normally most placid of nations. And the upheaval will be taking place *just where the Swiss troops are least* likely to find them.

As you must know, Switzerland has, and has had for very many years, a citizen army. Every able-bodied Switzer must by law keep a rifle in his home, in good repair, and he must also keep ammunition for the gun; failure in these orders is an offence. Moreover, every able-bodied male under 60 years of age must, again by law, go back into the armed forces for a month's refresher course every year.

That is all brave and bold, but reality must at some point put its head round the door. The likelihood of Switzerland being attacked by a hostile force is, even the Swiss men-at-arms would agree, remote. Possibly, one night when Zhirinovsky is good and drunk he might announce that he is going to invade Switzerland, but even then, the Swiss should not tremble in their shoes, because he has no army and is very unlikely indeed to know where Switzerland is.

Nevertheless, the Swiss are notoriously thrifty; surely, not *all* those *rifles are essential*, and likewise the ammunition? Very well, say the boffins, and lo! 200,000 footsloggers are decommissioned, the brigades whose task was to defend the *mountain fortifications are no longer* needed, and from now on Switzerland's defences are to be on a wing and prayer — actually, 64 wings, because the thrifty Swiss have just ordered, from the Americans, 32 fighter-bombers. (Come and get us, San Marino!)

Bernard Levin

But all that business with the mines and the barbed wire (and, I bet also the nuclear capacity buried very deep in the soil of Switzerland), leaves the greatest problem untouched. And this untouched problem is the one of which I said it would break out just where the Swiss troops were least likely to find it.

Pigeons.

What do you mean, pigeons? What have pigeons got to do with the fortifications of Switzerland? Answer: a great deal. For the Swiss High Command, in its sweep of unnecessary forces has also decided that one close-knit unit must also be stood down. And these troops, who have done great service for Switzerland, are 30,000 well-trained carrier pigeons.

Now look here, I don't make the news, so you can't blame me for it. If I am told that much of the Swiss Army of 400,000 is to be disbanded, and that in its place there will be 30,000 birds, squawking and flapping and making horrid messes, I shall report that item, and what I think when I go home is my business. But you must admit that it is a pretty tall story.

And then there comes solid evidence that the tall story is perfectly true, and the uproar coming from the War Office is a battle between those who think that the pigeons are now of no use, and those who — whether from sentiment or strict usefulness — should not be disbanded. For the citizens of this amazing country, who don't think themselves in any way amazing, have got yet another fantasy that turns out to be perfectly true. I told you that all the male citizens under 60 have to take a month off every year to refresh their knowledge of their weapons and the use of them. But I did not tell you — largely because I thought I would have been thrown down the stairs — that the pigeons, every year, just like the citizens, must also take out from their work and life a stated time back on *the asphalt*, whereon, presumably, a pigeon sergeant-major puts the pigeons through their paces with many a cry of "Pick your feet up, you 'orrible little pigeons".

Well, whatever you think about the Swiss, you must admit that they are not like other nations. And that otherness stretches quite a long way. I cannot improve on Mr Kroon's knowledge, so I shall quote it:

> . . . private pigeon-keepers train their birds for an annual two-week military refresher course. That involves dispatching unaccompanied homing pigeons by train to some border destination, where the station-master releases the birds from their baskets. The birds then fly home at an altitude of 6,500ft at speeds of about 47 miles per hour . . . Grounding the birds will *save the Swiss Government* 600,000 Swiss francs a year in pigeons' railroad fees, feed and 25 centimes per *bird a year for upkeep expenses* . . . The first affected will be private owners' 23,000 bird conscripts, because the army intends to hold onto its own squadron of 7,000 military liaison pigeons for the time being . . . The nation's 266 keepers of carrier pigeons have offered to assume the cost for the military preparedness of their birds. The Defence Department says it is impressed by the patriotic *gesture . . . some high-ranking Swiss* officers say scratching the pigeon detachments is a bird-brained *decision . . . modern military communi*cations can be intercepted by the enemy or jammed by electronic counter-measures, in which case one, or preferably two, homing pigeons could be highly useful.

There is another aspect to this story. We are told that the changes are for thrift, not defence. But that must mean that the coffers of Switzerland are *dangerously low — after* all, we are told that the cost of the keep of one homing pigeon a day is a mere 25 centimes, and there is a plan afoot (see above) to dispense with the *entire 30,000 flock. That must surely* mean that Switzerland will be going down the plughole any day now. Switzerland? Switzerland pawning the Matterhorn? And that means a gigantic uproar, because the Matterhorn is not entirely within the Swiss borders — there is a substantial bit in Italy, and the Italians aren't going to give their bit up. Soon we shall be *passing the hat round for Switzer*land — who would have thought it?

Come; we can't let poor Switzerland starve. It is time to examine those pigeons more closely. Clearly, they have been well looked after; whatever homing pigeons eat, they have had it in abundance, and that means that they must be plump, with a nice sheen on their feathers.

You see what I'm getting at?

Perhaps the Switzers won't like the joke, or even see it. Never mind; Switzerland will go her way, whether she is laughed at or admired. And anyway, who says it is impossible to have both?

Clarke's loss

KENNETH CLARKE'S political *adviser, Tessa Keswick, will an*nounce today that she is leaving her post. As Clarke's closest confidante for the past six years — through his tenures at the Health *and Education Ministries*, the Home Office and the Treasury — Keswick has become one of the most powerful women in Britain.

"It's very straightforward and sad," she says. "But after six hard years there are other things I want to do in due course." David Ruffley, her cerebral deputy, will move up to take Keswick's place, and two more advisers will be appointed.

Keswick is the daughter of Lord Lovat and wife of the millionaire banker Henry Keswick. She has been increasingly absent in the past few months in order to handle tangled family affairs after recent tragedies. Her brother Andrew was fatally gored by a buffalo in Tanzania last year, and then Simon, her eldest brother, died of a heart attack after falling off his horse while drag-hunting. It is thought that her family's estate in Scotland will be sold this spring.

Keswick is further to the right than Clarke, who will be sad to see her go. "The Chancellor will need fresh blood and new ideas leading up to the election. That is not what he says, but it is what I say," she says. "But it's a wonderful job and he's a wonderful boss — I would recommend him to anyone."



Keswick: time for change

● *Richard Ingrams, the parish church organist and editor of* The Oldie *magazine, is planning an assault on Westminster Abbey. He cornered the abbey's organist at a party recently and came away with an invitation to play. "He can't fit me in until July but I'm already practising."*

Radio days

STUDENT newspapers are old hat. Undergraduates at Oxford are applying for their own radio station. "We are getting our first restricted service licence in November, before applying for the full licence," says the project co-ordinator Philip Weiss (Christ Church, third year).

Brendan May (Balliol, second year, head of programming) is calling all alumni: "We want to exploit them mercilessly to get them to come and talk on air," he says. "We expect very attentive audiences for our 'Bluff Your Way Through Exams' series."

The disc-jockey Paul Gambaccini, who read politics, philosophy and economics at University College, admits to skimping on his essays when he was first studying at Dartmouth College in New England. "The students already had commercial radio there. I loved it so much that I did ten hours of radio every day for four years."

Crumbs, John

THERE were fraught moments just before artistes such as Hugh Grant, Shirley Bassey and Nigel Hawthorne turned up at No 10 for a reception for the London Arts Season on Wednesday night. After a busy day launching the Irish framework document in Belfast, the Majors were in a flap.

"John was in a fearful state," says my source. "*He* was there on time but Norma wasn't. He rushed about saying, 'Where's Norma? Where's Norma?', and wringing his hands as the guests were queueing up to be received downstairs."

Norma eventually appeared, looked her husband up and down, approved, and the distinguished guests were ushered in. But just after the first tranche was through, Norma spotted a flaw. She leant over and brushed some crumbs off the Prime Minister's chin.



● *A confusing slip from Hansard the other day had Alan Duncan, Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, asking the Foreign Secretary questions about football rather than the West Bank. What plans, asked Duncan, had he to visit the West Bank and "Gazza"?*

Hair today

HAIRSTYLES were the topic of the evening when a Sloane Street boutique opened on Wednesday. Pop singer Terence Trent D'Arby sported a new defoliated look (dreadlocks turned peroxide crop). His reason for the change was a tad unusual: "I got in trouble with the *Mob and needed a disguise. I was* going to get hit by the Mafiosi. Anyway, blondes have more fun."

No they don't, said the model Yasmin le Bon (bottle-blonde turned brunette): "I married as a brunette, have much more fun as a brunette, and I'm going to stay brunette." Helena Christensen (copper-tint turned brunette), a catwalk colleague who arrived at the Prada boutique with her pop singer Michael Hutchence, was all for change: "Red, green, yellow — who cares? It doesn't matter what colour or style you are," she said.





Piles of style: Terence and Helena hit the Sloane Street scene

P·H·S

FRANCE AT SEA

Paris should act swiftly to end the Channel blockade

The blockade of the Channel ports by striking French seamen is an outrage. Dozens of ferries have had to cancel or divert their sailings. Hundreds of passengers were yesterday stranded in the Channel by rampaging demonstrators in Calais. Not only has this action inconvenienced thousands of families who have had their half-term holidays disrupted; more importantly, it has shown yet again that the French Government cannot be trusted to enforce European, or even its own, laws.

This wildcat strike, reminiscent of the worst excesses of union militancy in Britain two decades ago, is ostensibly about the employment by the small British company Meridian of Polish seamen at wages far below those paid to French seamen. In fact it is a quarrel over high wages, restrictive practices and union bullying between the French seamen and the cross-Channel ferry companies. British travellers and British companies are the victims of this dispute. And the French appear to be in no hurry to uphold the rule of law.

Secondary picketing was outlawed in this country years ago. Attempts to block not only the French ports but also the Channel Tunnel would not be allowed in Britain, even if the strike were legal and preceded by a proper ballot. Even under the commitments given by France to its European partners on free competition, the attempt to enforce a commercial monopoly by the seamen would be illegal. A complaint over French behaviour has already been made to Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner. If the dispute continues he should demand tough action from France to uphold the 1986 regulation granting all shipowners the freedom to operate throughout the EU — the kind of action against strikers he was reluctant to countenance as Labour leader.

French seamen are among the highest paid in the world. They are loath to lose their privileges, and clearly see Meridian as the thin end of a wedge that will be used by their employers to force down their own wages. The French have a thin pretext for their protests. The Poles, coming from outside the EU, do not have work permits for either Britain or France, and therefore are never allowed to come ashore; speaking Polish, they may not understand shouted orders, and this could allegedly be dangerous, although most of the world's ships are today manned by polyglot crews.

Probably the real reason for the French anger is the realisation that the Channel Tunnel threatens to break the power of the seamen's unions. Ferry companies will have to cut costs and improve services. British seamen, who earn only about half as much as their French counterparts, appear to have understood this and are bracing themselves for the retrenchments essential if the ferries are to survive.

The French reaction is a crude, old-fashioned resort to union power and violence. Unfortunately, past experience has shown that in France such bullying often works. Time and again the French Government has attempted to curb public expense only to retreat in the face of determined, and often violent, opposition: the perennial farm riots, the students' revolt and the confrontation over the restructuring of Air France are telling examples.

The Balladur Government has shown a consistent reluctance to resist militant opposition, turning a blind eye to the breaking of the law by rioting students and farmers blockading motorways. The spectacle of French police initially standing by and allowing the Channel ports to be taken over by violent seamen is ample proof not only of M Balladur's policy of appeasement but of his nervousness that an election victory may be slipping from his grasp. Britain and Europe have the right to demand a French Government made of sterner stuff.

APPEALING PROPOSALS

The new criminal cases review body is welcome

Michael Howard's announcement yesterday of legislation to establish a new Criminal Cases Review Commission won support across the political spectrum and was warmly welcomed by the Lord Chief Justice. The need for an independent body to investigate miscarriages of justice was widely acknowledged long before the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in July 1993. The damage done to public confidence by the cases of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four still needs to be repaired. The new proposals should begin the process.

How allegations of miscarriages should be examined after appeal rights have been exhausted has been a perennial question for lawyers and constitutionalists. Since the Criminal Appeal Act of 1968, the Home Secretary has had the power to refer cases to the Court of Appeal where he feels a conviction is unsafe. This right has been used very restrictively. Between 1989 and 1992, for instance, only 28 cases involving 49 appellants were so referred, in spite of the fact that the Home Office receives between 700 and 800 applications a year. As Lord Runciman's Royal Commission observed, the power to refer has been used restrictively and reactively. The Home Office has sometimes appeared sluggish in its response to issues of great public and private concern.

It is also constitutionally unhealthy for the Home Secretary to exercise this quasi-judicial function. The separation of powers is not absolute in this country. Judges have considerable powers to quash executive decisions; the Home Secretary determines the length of sentence which many prisoners will serve. Yet the power to refer cases which have exhausted the appeal system back to the courts is a particularly sensitive one. The Home Secretary is always exposed to the accusation that his decisions concerning such applications are politically motivated. The criminal justice system will benefit from the transfer of this power to a body that is publicly acknowledged to be independent.

The main area of controversy remains the manner in which the new commission should carry out investigations into cases which come before it. The Runciman commission recommended cautiously that "the direction of inquiries and their evaluation once completed would benefit from the employment on the staff of the authority of people with relevant investigative experience". The proposed body will consist of at least 11 members and employ up to 60 staff, with an annual budget of more than £4 million. But Mr Howard has stopped short of creating a special team of officers to carry out investigations. Instead, the body will be able to call on police officers for help as the need arises.

For this the Home Secretary was roundly criticised yesterday by Chris Mullin, the MP who campaigned successfully on behalf of the Birmingham Six. The failure to set up an investigative team completely independent of the police was, he argued, "an absolutely fatal flaw". This is an overreaction. It is insulting and false to suggest that no policeman can be trusted to carry out such work. The nature and scale of the investigations carried out by the commission will also vary enormously. Better for it to employ officers from different parts of the country as and when they are needed than to maintain an expensive standing army of investigators. In its first few years, the body will probably face an overwhelming rush of applications. It will need all the flexibility the Government is willing to grant it.

HOMO LOQUENS

'The whole earth was of one language, and of one speech'

There is an old Gã proverb from Ghana which chimes that "language changes every twenty miles". There is also, alas, a more recent and gloomy calculation. According to a research paper read earlier in the week to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, nearly 3,000 languages could become extinct over the next century. If Gã-speakers so wished, their proverb could now be altered to "600 languages die every twenty years".

There are almost as many languages in the world today as there are varieties of fruit-bats or moths. Of these, a mere 169 are regarded by the CIA as "critical", in the sense that knowledge of them would promote security interests or scientific research. Others, such as Aakwo, Bella Coola, Grawadungalung, I, Kukukuku, Marraawarree, Ngeq, Northern Pomo, Ok, Santa, Tzotzil, U, Yangman and Zyrian — to select but a mouthful of examples from David Crystal's *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language* — are likely to be with us merely as dimming sparkles which will soon lose their light.

Northern Pomo has, in fact, ceased to exist since the last edition of Crystal's book was published: the last speaker died a month ago, in her eighties, in California. Languages will continue to be threatened, just as fragile butterflies are. But if the Rajah Brooke's Birdwing butterfly is worth saving — and no one has suggested that it is not — then so is Odul (a Paleosiberian tongue, better known as Yukaghir).

It has been suggested, and not just by paranoid Frenchmen, that the funeral rites of other tongues are conducted in English. Yet while it is true that language is a Darwinian business — and that English is the most sinewy *langue* of all — many more tongues have died with the death of the traditional ways of life of their speakers than from some great anglophone onslaught.

French does not merit special protection, as its speakers must learn to compete in the free market of language. But we are duty-bound to rig the market in favour of — or to give "scaffolding" to — those little-spoken languages which wilt in the rude and modern glare from which there is now no escape. They should, wherever possible, be documented by our faculties of linguistics and philology, their spoken passages recorded on tape, and their last practitioners filmed for future generations. Technology can here come to the aid of teetering tradition.

We must burrow out in haste the few remaining speakers of the Khoisan family of languages, for example, of which only Kwadi and Sandawe number more than 10,000; or of the Ge-Pano-Carib strain, perhaps the most endangered of all. In embalming these languages at their moment of death, we will at least be keeping alive our own spirit of inquiry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

How to care for an ageing population

From Dr Julian Oram and Professor P. H. Millard

Sir, We are glad to congratulate Madame Joanne Calment of Arles on her 120th birthday today (report, February 20; leading article, February 21). We were also pleased to note your brief report of February 7 that there are now over 4,000 centenarians in Britain compared with 300 forty years ago. In 1991, 807,000 people were aged over 85, and there will be 1.5 million of this age by 2015.

All this is good news. Unfortunately, however, increasing age brings more likelihood of dependency and disability from illnesses such as arthritis, stroke, dementia, and circulatory and respiratory disorders. There is an 8 per cent disability profile for 65-75 year olds and 40 per cent for the over-85 age group.

Our experience in Wandsworth is relevant. A decade ago we tackled the problem of a long waiting list for admission and blocked hospital beds by introducing active therapeutic policies. We took over a small acute hospital on Wandsworth Common (the Bolingbroke) and transformed it into an active treatment centre with a demonstration long-term care unit and, by working with the borough, we established a community hospital that won a *Sunday Times* award in 1991.

In 1981 the Government decided that Britain could not afford the necessary expansion in geriatric medicine to cope with an increasingly ageing population. It subsequently entered into a policy of integration of acute care and private enterprise, with mixed results. Within the decade, public expenditure on private and voluntary residential and nursing care rose from £8 million a year to £2.4 billion, as the number of income-supported recipients of institutional care rose from 11,000 in December 1979 to 253,200 in November 1991.

In 1993, in an attempt to control expenditure, the Government introduced the Community Care Act which shifted responsibility to local authorities. Now social workers have to decide the degree of nursing care that clients need. Many local authorities are struggling to meet the costs of care, whether it be in the community or a long-term residential setting, and economic reality means that those who can afford it will have in future to make an increasing financial contribution, as will the public purse.

A dramatic change has occurred in long-term care, moving from open wards and multi-occupancy rooms with flimsy curtains for privacy to single room units with their own sanitation and washing facilities. Much of this has been achieved by entering into contract with voluntary and private organisations.

Specialists in geriatric medicine however are having almost no input into these facilities, and this is an area where we have great expertise. It is heartening to know that the Government is considering new guidelines, so that all those who enter long-term care are first screened by specialists in geriatric medicine and that these specialists will also be involved in the continuum of their care.

Yours etc,
JULIAN ORAM,
PETER H. MILLARD,
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Division of Geriatric Medicine,
Cranmer Terrace, SW17.
February 21.

Measure for measure

From Mr Peter R. Milner

Sir, Award time for the creative arts is with us again and I would like to nominate the Government, in the form of the Central Statistical Office, for the award for creative accounting.

From March the CSO will publish a measure of inflation which will exclude both mortgage payments and indirect taxation (report, February 16) and will release only "on request" its measure of tax and price inflation. This will allow the Government to continue with its policy of replacing direct with indirect taxation, to the detriment of poorer sections of the community, and at the same time claim continued success in reducing headline inflation, upon which it expects the country to settle its pay awards.

Perhaps the Government would explain to those of us who pay mortgages and indirect taxes how we, too, can remove these from our own monthly calculations.

Yours faithfully,
PETER R. MILNER,
Old Orchard House, Avon Dassett,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Getting into jail can also be difficult

From Miss Nemone Lethbridge

Sir, Last week I attempted to visit a client in custody. I had visited him in November, at the same prison, without problem. On this occasion a letter of introduction had been written, an appointment made and identification tendered (season ticket bearing photograph and signature, credit cards, professional card).

I was refused admittance. So was my instructing solicitor. An unqualified clerk, learning the law, was admitted, because he had on his person a driver's licence. He conducted the conference with my client.

While the clerk was wrestling with problems of criminal responsibility inside, my instructing solicitor and I sat outside the custody area, watching the steady stream of wives and sweethearts (who obviously had their driver's licences about them) coming and going. Some of them seemed far from well. We thought that some were probably under the influence of drugs. We wondered which were buying and which were selling.

We also wondered whether in future the DVLC would issue its licences bearing the following words: "You are licensed to drive the following vehicles ... and to enter Her Majesty's Prison Belmarsh."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
NEMONE LETHBRIDGE,
116-118 Chancery Lane, WC2.
February 17.

Cambodia's day for 'worst killer'

From the Deputy Director of Oxfam

Sir, Tomorrow, Friday, will be a special day in Cambodia, but there will be no celebrations as it will be Mines Awareness Day. Thousands of amputees, doctors, surgeons, bereaved mothers, fathers, sons and daughters will march through Phnom Penh calling for a ban on the production and use of these indiscriminate and long-lasting weapons. The day will also be a memorial for all those who have lost their lives to what has been called "the world's worst serial killer".

Statistics on landmines in Cambodia are staggering. An estimated 7 million mines litter the country, nearly one lethal mine for every man, woman and child. Landmines have given Cambodia the unenviable honour of having the highest per capita amputee rate in the world.

Long after the war is over and the soldiers have gone home, landmines — "silent soldiers" — remain in the ground awaiting the random footfall of an innocent civilian. Throughout the world, in countries such as Angola, Afghanistan, Mozambique and the former Yugoslavia, landmines are wreaking havoc. Yet the production, export and use of these weapons continues unabated.

Cambodia, along with many other countries including, Italy, Sweden, Belgium and Ireland, is calling for a worldwide ban on the production, transfer, stockpiling and use of landmines. Whilst the British Government's recent ratification of the 1981 UN protocol restricting the use of landmines is welcome (report, February 22) the Government must now go the extra mile and call for a worldwide ban on a weapon which is just as indiscriminate and evil as chemical and biological weapons.

The UK and Irish members of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, on whose behalf I write, urge the Government to increase the level of humanitarian aid for the victims of mines and of mine clearance and mine awareness programmes. Failure to act now, to join the move to end the threat of these repulsive weapons, will mean the continued destruction of innocent lives during and long after the ravages of wars.

Yours etc,
STEWART WALLIS
Deputy Director, Oxfam,
274 Banbury Road, Oxford.

Prescription charges

From Professor David Silverman

Sir, You report today that the Government defended the latest increase in prescription charges by arguing "that those who could afford to do so should make a small contribution towards the increased spending on the NHS".

Exactly so. But isn't that why we pay income tax, levied according to ability to pay? Why tax the sick? Unless, perish the thought, the Government wants to use inequitable tax increases of this kind to pave the way for yet another pre-election tax "cut".

Yours sincerely,
DAVID SILVERMAN,
Goldsmiths' College,
Sociology Department,
Lewisham Way, SE14.
February 23.

From Dr Shirley Holton

Sir, It is wrong that under the guise of providing a National Health Service the Government should impose a charge of more than the goods (ie, drugs) may be worth on a significant proportion of the population. One solution is for patients to ask their GPs for private prescriptions where the cost of the drugs will be less than if provided by the NHS. They are entitled to do this and drug costs are available to GPs through the *British National Formulary*, a publication which every GP receives free.

Yours etc,
SHIRLEY HOLTON
(Consultant in Public Health Medicine),
Erin House, Nightingales Lane,
Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.
February 23.

'Lay' Communion

From the Bishop of Maidstone

Sir, On February 18 you carried a report which presented me as someone "declaring ... support for lay celebration of the Holy Communion". What it did not make clear is that I see no need for such unusual action at present.

I introduced the thought in a talk which reflected on the challenges and dilemmas facing the Church of England if it wishes to remain a Church that is "there" for all the communities of our country.

Within fifteen years I believe we shall be trying to serve the country with significantly fewer clergy. In the rural areas particularly this may have to call for very radical developments. My idea for "provisional lay celebration" was discussed in that context. The idea is nothing new. It is based on the thought of a famous dissertation on ministry written by Bishop J. B. Lightfoot in 1868.

I was making no dramatic call to the rest of the Church. The House of Bishops group that is thinking on these matters already knows my thoughts. We need to face the looming crisis with vision. *That* is what I actually talked about.

Yours sincerely,
†GAVIN MAIDSTONE,
Bishop's House, Pett Lane,
Charing, Ashford, Kent.

Federal Europe

From Mr Antony Moore

Sir, Mr Lamont fearfully foresees a Britain within a federal Europe with a status like that of the State of Delaware within the United States of America (report, February 18).

He, and we, should ask ourselves what today would be the international standing, and what the economic wealth, of a sovereign, independent State of Delaware whose forefathers had decided to stand aside from the development of the United States of America, and consequently to have no influence over its nature or its policies.

Fortunately, after 150 years of constant fighting, first with the native Indians and then among themselves, the Swedish, Dutch and English colonists in Delaware had acquired a wider vision, and a truer understanding of their own best interests, and at the Annapolis Convention of 1797 were the first representatives of the five attending states to ratify the Federal constitution.

I understand that the citizens of the State of Delaware today see no reason to regret this decision and that their present life is by no means disagreeable.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY MOORE,
Touchbridge, Boarstall,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
February 18.

Livestock disease

From Mr Peter Curtis

Sir, Since the free market in British livestock was introduced in 1993, with its "open frontier" practices, several disease problems have been apparently imported into the UK, including equine viral arteritis, warbled cattle, foot-and-mouth disease vaccinated cattle (possible carriers), and brucellosis of cattle. The problems may have been contained for the present, but they will undoubtedly recur.

Many other serious livestock diseases are also present in Europe. Given the 1994 report by the House of Commons agriculture committee, which questioned whether the Community's veterinary fund was adequate for its eradication responsibilities, it is unclear how the re-eradication of these diseases would be funded, should they be introduced into the UK.

Foot-and-mouth disease appeared in the Community in Italy in 1993 and the Greek islands in 1994. In both outbreaks illegal imports were the probable origin and Britain's frontiers were "open" initially. The risks this involved for the intensive UK cattle, sheep, goat and pig industries seem totally unacceptable on health, welfare and economic grounds.

The Agricultural Committee wished the "farming community to be buzzing with information on the dangers and responsibilities associated with importing stock", and made some proposals to improve import control. Yet the Government, it seems, is intent on reducing its state veterinary service activities and does not wish to accept responsibility for new diseases found in UK livestock.

Uncontrolled re-imported disease of which sheep scab is a present example, may cause untold animal suffering in future years. Given our island state, our livestock deserve more protection from avoidable disease. We need a more forward-looking philosophy of disease reduction.

Yours sincerely,
PETER CURTIS,
The University of Liverpool,
Department of Veterinary Clinical Science and Animal Husbandry,
Leahurst, Neston, South Wirral.
February 20.

Business letters, page 27

Honouring the Spitfire's creator

From Sir Charles J. Jessel

Sir, Although Reginald Mitchell's son was informed that his father could not be given a posthumous award for creating the Spitfire (report, February 21) because such honours can only be given for gallantry, there seems to be no reason why his widow or son should not have been granted a title.

In the same issue you reported that the widow of John Smith, Labour Leader of the Opposition, has taken the title of Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, her honour presumably being awarded in recognition of her late husband's services to the nation.

This is an example of a widow receiving the recognition due to her spouse. But the honour could be given to a son. This was the case in my own family. My great grandfather, a Master of the Rolls, died too young to be created a baronet. The title was granted to his son in 1883.

Is it too late to rectify this seeming lack of gratitude to one who contributed so greatly to the winning of the Battle of Britain, and thus eventually to victory in World War II? Surely something special should be done in this year of VE-Day celebrations to honour such an important man?

Yours etc,
CHARLES JESSEL,
South Hill Farm,
Hastingleigh, nr Ashford, Kent.
February 21.

From Group Captain David Green, Chairman of the Spitfire Society

Sir, As a teenage fighter pilot in 1942, and, many years later, the founder of this society, I have known throughout my years in aviation that I owe my life to the matchless design skill of R. J. Mitchell. I share with his son, Dr Gordon Mitchell, sadness that "RJ" did not survive to see how his genius and dedication made all the difference between freedom and tyranny.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GREEN,
Chairman, The Spitfire Society,
141 Albert Road,
Southampton, Hampshire.
February 21.

From Mr I. R. Lyon

Sir, Every ageing schoolboy reading *The Times* today would have been quite horrified by your caption to Mitchell's Spitfire. They would all know that K5054 was not just "one of the first": it was *the first*, and a quite exceptional and unique aeroplane.

Yours faithfully,
IAN LYON,
Eastone Grey,
Allenhayes Road, Salcombe, Devon.
February 21.

What the blazers!

From the President of the Oxford Union Society

Sir, How nice to read (Diary, February 21) that the Cambridge Union are finally following the Oxford Union's lead, and buying themselves blazers. We noted Cambridge's jealous looks at our debaters' jackets as we cruised past them in the recent world championships in Princeton.

Apparently Cambridge plan only to provide for the men; strange, as their best debater is a woman. Our ladies are happy with blazers, but perhaps Cambridge can persuade the Queen's dressmaker to run up an evening gown.

Congratulations must go to Sir Hardy Amies, however, for having already picked out a shade of Oxford Blue. How sensible: duck-egg never was very fetching.

Yours,
ROBERT PALMER,
President, Oxford Union Society,
Frewin Court, Oxford.

Episcopal abuse?

From the Archdeacon of Aston

Sir, Did a retired bishop really use obscene language in a letter to the Archdeacon of York? That's what Julia Llewellyn Smith (interview, "I believe in God, not in getting on", February 10) said happened after a "Thought for the Day" broadcast.

I call upon the archdeacon to substantiate the claim or else deny the report. If he does neither, his own credibility will be suspect.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BARTON,
26 George Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham.
February 11.

Move along, there

From Mrs Alan Robson

Sir, Yesterday morning I saw a lorry equipped with a large hoist and bearing the inscription "Community recycling".

Is this some new diabolical government scheme for relocating citizens?

Yours truly,
LIZ ROBSON,
The Rectory,
Wrotham, Kent.
February 21.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 23: His Excellency Professor Cyril Foray and Mrs Foray were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His *Excellency relinquishing his appointment* as High Commissioner for the Republic of Sierra Leone in London.

His Excellency Mr Jan Herman van Roijen was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as *Ambassador Extraordinary and* Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Ronald Loudon (Minister Plenipotentiary), Mr Adriaan *Quanjer (Minister* Plenipotentiary, Economic Affairs), Mr Hinkinus Nijenhuis (Political Counsellor, Consul General), Mr Roelof van der *Kraan (First* Secretary, Economic Affairs), Captain Jakobus Blok (Military Attaché), Colonel Hubertus Bonsel (Military Attaché), Mr Harmen de Boer (Counsellor, Agriculture) and Mr Hubertus Tabbers (Counsellor, Industrial Affairs).

Mrs van Roijen was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Dr Klaus Hänsch (President of the European Parliament) was received by Her Majesty.

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Green Jackets, received General Sir Edward Jones upon relinquishing his appointments as United Kingdom Military Representative at NATO and as Representative Colonel Commandant, The Royal Green Jackets, and Major General Christopher Wallace upon assuming the appointment as Representative Colonel Commandant, The Royal Green Jackets.

The Queen, Patron, and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London SW1, to mark the Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the Institute and were received by the Honorary President (the Lord Jenkins of Hillhead) and the Chairman (the Lord Tugendhat).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness viewed an exhibition before touring the Institute, escorted respectively by Professor Sir Laurence Martin (Director) and the Lord Tugendhat.

The Countess of Airlie, Sir Kenneth Scott and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, the Guinea Pig Club, this morning opened the McIndoe Burns Centre, Queen Victoria Hospital, East *Grinstead, and was received by* Colonel Sir Brian Barttelot, Bt (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex).

Sir Brian McGrath was in attendance.

February 23: The Prince Edward, President, this afternoon attended a performance of "Pendragon" given by the National Youth Music Theatre at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre, Edinburgh.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

February 23: The Duke of Kent, Patron, Trinity College of Music, this evening attended a concert, Westminster Central Hall, London SW1.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent, President, this afternoon presented the Engineering Council's President's Award, York House, St James's Palace, London SW1.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, this evening attended a reception, the Honorary Artillery Company, Armoury House, City Road, London EC1.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

February 23: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon received the Right Hon Sir Peter Lloyd, MP upon his appointment as Chairman of the New Bridge.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, subsequently received Major General R.J. Hodges, Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel S.J. Flanagan upon relinquishing command of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, *Lieutenant Colonel P.R. Cobley on* assuming this command, and Brigadier J.B. Howard on retiring as Regimental Secretary.

Her Royal Highness, Vice Patron of the Royal Over-Seas League, this evening attended a Musical Evening to inaugurate the Audrey Strange Memorial Trust at St James's Palace, London SW1.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.



MICHAEL POWELL

Billy Strachan from Jamaica, who became an RAF Lancaster pilot, standing by a Lancaster fuselage in the museum

The Empire's forgotten heroes are recalled

BY JOHN YOUNG

VICTOR Ubogu, a try-scoring hero in Britain's rugby victory against Wales last Saturday, yesterday joined a number of other black and Asian celebrities at the Imperial War Museum for the launch of a campaign to highlight the contribution of Asian, African and Caribbean men and women in the Second World War.

The museum described its educational pack as an attempt to redress the imbalance of material at present available. "While it is known that the former Empire made a valuable contribution to Britain's war effort, there seems to be considerable ignorance about its extent *and nature," a spokesman said.*

Some 372,000 Africans fought for Britain mainly in the King's African Rifles, based in Kenya, and the Royal West African Frontier Force centred on Nigeria; around 119,000 served in South-East Asia and 47,500 in the Middle East.

Of the 2,500,000 members of the Indian Army, only 100,000 were from Britain. Indian regiments served in Eritrea, Abyssinia, the Middle East, North Africa, Burma, Malaya, Italy and Greece. A total of 8 million people served in the defence services, including war industries and the railways.

Some 6,000 West Indians volunteered for the RAF and thousands more served in the Merchant Navy and in civilian war work; 700 British Hondurans *worked as lumberjacks in Scotland.*

Billy Strachan, 74, now a barrister, journalist and management consultant in Wembley, came to Britain from Jamaica in March 1940 at the age of 18. Within 12 weeks he had been promoted to sergeant wireless operator and air *gunner flying in Wellington bombers.* After 29 missions he could have retired but asked to train as a pilot, became an acting squadron leader and continued flying Lancasters until April 1945. "I didn't come here as a West Indian, I came to England and joined as an Englishman," he said yesterday. "I never encountered any racism but my fellow officers thought I was mad to have volunteered. They said they would have got the boat going the other way if they had known what was in store."

Colonel Mohammed Ismail Khan, of the Indian Army, was taken prisoner in Singapore in February 1942 and spent the rest of the war in a Japanese camp. "It was certainly no picnic," he said yesterday.

Since partition in 1947 there had been moves to disband veterans' associations. But both Indians and Pakistanis had resisted strongly. "We said to hell with that, we'll go on till the last of us is dead, then they can scrap them." Colonel Khan said.

*Diane Abbott, Labour MP for Hack*ney North, whose family came from Jamaica, said that, as a child, she had been told by relatives how many West Indians had volunteered. "They didn't have to come," she said. "They were proud to be British and glad to have the *chance to fight for their country."*

Forthcoming marriages

Mr I.W.F. Baxter
and Miss M.I. Tiley
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of Mrs Margaret Baxter and the late Mr *Winston Baxter, of* Eastbourne, and Mary, only daughter of Professor and Mrs John Tiley, of Cambridge.

Mr J.E. Beck
and Miss T.A. Cross de Chavannes
The engagement *is announced* between Julian, son of Mr A. Beck, of Portugal, and Mrs B. Rigby, of Beaconsfield, and Tamsin, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ben Cross de Chavannes, of Hampstead.

Mr O.H. Brettle
and Miss E.J. Bach
The engagement is announced between Oliver, second son of Mr and Mrs Harvey Brettle, of Croydon, Surrey, and Emily, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John *Bach, of London, NW3.*

Mr N.M. Brown
and Miss C.H. Read
The engagement is announced between Neil, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Swanson Brown, of Leslie, Fife, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr Derek and District Judge Maureen Read, of Fremington, Devon.

Lieutenant N.R.I. Chamberlain, RN,
and Miss H.M. Macfarlane
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr *David Chamberlain, of* Potterspury, Northamptonshire, and Mrs Alice Chamberlain, of Flore, Northamptonshire, and Maura, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Maxwell Macfarlane, of Southborough, Kent.

Mr R.H.M. Chaplin
and Baronesse C.D. von der Pahlen
The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and Mrs John Chaplin, of Finsthwaite, Cumbria, and Christina, daughter of Baron and Baronin Klaus von der Pahlen, of Kaiserswert, Germany.

Mr C.P. Hanson
and Miss T.A.M. Eamus
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Hanson, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, and Anna, only daughter of Mr I.J. Eamus, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs E.B. Hodgetts, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr E.E. Dix Perkin
and Miss F.C. Greenwood
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Dix Perkin, of Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Greenwood, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Mr B.M. Hubbard
and Miss C.A. Binning
The engagement is announced between Bruce, younger son of Mr Alastair Hubbard, of Ringwood, Hampshire, formerly of Sevenoaks, Kent, and the late Mrs Ann Hubbard, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Binning, of Steventon, Oxfordshire.

Mr M.P.M. Keating
and Mrs E.D. Fielding-Smith
The engagement is announced between Mark Patrick Menzies Keating and Elizabeth Dain Fielding-Smith, of Islington, London.

Mr S. Pearson
and Miss B.J. Nicoll
The engagement is announced between Stewart, son of Mrs Stella Pearson, of Leven, Fife, and the late Mr A. Pearson, and Barbara Jane, daughter of Sir William and Lady Nicoll, of Canterbury.

Mr S.J. Thorne
and Miss C. Green
The engagement is announced between Simon John, elder son of Air Commodore and Mrs John Thorne, of Sherborne, Dorset, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Green, of Woolton, Liverpool.

Dr C.E. Vettese
and Miss L.S. Stent
The engagement is announced between Carlo Ettore, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Lino Vettese, of Gorleston, Norfolk, and Lindsay Samantha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Stent, of Chester, Cheshire.

Mr S.I. Wandrag
and Miss A. Shoobridge
The engagement is announced between Stuart, youngest son of the late Sarel Wandrag and of Florence Wandrag, of Acton, London, and Angela, younger daughter of Bob and Toula Shoobridge, of South Woodford, London.

Mr M.R.H. Wardle
and Miss S.N. Forster
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, younger son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Wardle, of Northampton, and Susan, daughter of Major and Mrs John Forster, of Flitwick, Bedford.

School news

Edgehill College, Bideford, Devon
The Governors are pleased to announce the following Scholarships and Exhibitions for September 1995:
9+ Scholarships: Charlotte Butler Kitto, Moira Johns.
11+ Scholarships: Caroline Bizeray, Kate Neal.
11+ Exhibitions: Sophie Barker, James Braund, Hayley Pert.
11+ Music Scholarship: Roberta Ensor.
11+ Music Exhibition: Hannah Langdon.
13+ Scholarships: John Ensor, Elizabeth Tyler.
13+ Exhibition: Thomas Harding.

Wycombe Abbey School
Scholarship Awards 1995
The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarship: Jointly - Rebecca Jackson, Ashdown House School, and Katrina Penman, Godstowe Preparatory School.
***The William Johnston Yapp* Scholarship:** Jointly - Sarah Outram, Maltmans Green School, and Katherine Robertson, Sutton High School.
The Whiteley Scholarship (for Music): Antonia Porter, The Cathedral Choir School, Ripon.
The Crosthwaite Scholarship: Alexandra Tse, Wycombe Abbey School.
The Walpole Scholarship: Elisabeth Dondos, Danes Hill School.
Minor Scholarships: Chia-Hui Lim (for Music), Sharjah English School, UAE; Qenonne Poole-Wilson, Wycombe Abbey School; Rachel Sperling, Sydenham High School.
Exhibitions: Ann Babtie (for Mathematics), The Old Vicarage School; Kate Donald, Wycombe Abbey School; Charlotte Holman, James Allen's Preparatory School; Melissa Lee, Wycombe Abbey School; Antonia Porter (for English), The Cathedral Choir School, Ripon.
Internal Sixth Form Scholarships (tenable from September 1994) have been awarded to: Anna Payton (Fisher Scholarship), Nicola Wong (Fisher Scholarship), Fiona Beresford (Flux Dundas Scholarship) and Elizabeth Buchanan (Flux Dundas Scholarship).
The charity number is 310638 (Girls' Education Co Ltd — Aim is provision of education).

Birthdays today

Professor George Bain, Principal, London Business School, 56; Judge Inge Bernstein, 64; Professor E. Boyland, biochemist, 90; Mr Brian Close, cricketer, 64; Dr Lionel Dakers, former Director, Royal School of Church Music, 71; Mr Reginald Freeson, former MP, 69; Professor G.J.M. Gazdar, computational linguist, 45; Mr Richard Hamilton, painter, 73; Lord Hazlerigg, 84; Major-General David Houston, Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, 66; Mr Paul Jones, singer and actor, 53; Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, 76; Mr *David Langdon, cartoonist and* illustrator, 81; Mr Denis Law, footballer, 55; Mr Anthony Mayer, chief executive, Housing Corporation, 49; *Lord Melchett, 47;* the Marquess of Normanby, 41; Admiral Sir William Pillar, 71; M Alain Prost, racing driver, 40; Mr Derek Randall, cricketer, 44; the Rev Kathleen Richardson, former President the Methodist Conference, 57; Sir Frank Rogers, deputy chairman, Telegraph, and chairman, NPA, 75; Mr Harry Urwin, trade unionist, 80; Mr Dennis Waterman, actor, 47; Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP, 58.

Meeting

Byron Society
Lord Byron, President of the Byron Society, was in the chair at a lecture delivered by Professor Norman Page yesterday evening at the Royal Institution. Mr Derek Wise, *chairman, presided at the annual* meeting held earlier. Mr Michael Foot, deputy chairman, also spoke.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Hotties Science and Arts Centre, St Helens, Merseyside, at 9.30; will visit Prescot School, Prescot, at 10.20; will *visit BICC Cables at Whiston at 11.15;* will visit Nichols Foods, Haydock, at 12.35; and will visit the Royal National Institute for Deaf People's Typetalk Unit, Liverpool, at 3.15.

The Prince of Wales, as Patron of the National Trust Centenary, will visit Style Country Park, Wilmslow, *Cheshire, at 10.20; will visit Quarry* Bank Mill, Wilmslow, at noon; as Patron of the National Trust Centenary will also visit Lyme Park, *Disley, Stockport, at 2.25.*

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the London College of Music, will attend a concert in aid of Winged *Fellowship and Cruse at St John's* Smith Square at 7.25.

Reception

The London Institute
The Chairman of The London Institute, Mr Julian E. Markham, and the Rector of the London Institute, Professor John McKenzie, were the hosts at receptions held on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 21 and 22, in the Institute's Gallery at 65 Davies Street, London, W1 to launch the Institute's Annual Report and to *mark the achievements of the In*stitute's First Class Honours Students in design.

Dinners

Royal Over-Seas League
*Princess Alexandra attended a musi*cal evening and dinner given by the Royal Over-Seas League last night at St James's Palace to mark the inauguration of the Audrey Strange Memorial Trust. She was welcomed by Lord Grey of Naunton, grand president of the league, Mr Robert Newell, director general, Mr Peter McEntee, chairman of the central council, and Mr Godfrey Talbot, vice-chairman

HM Government
The Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government last night at the Locarno Room, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in honour of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait.

HM Government
Mr Ian Lang, Secretary of State for Scotland, was the host last night at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government in Edinburgh Castle for NEC Semiconductors.

Needlemakers' Company
Mr Stanley Flintham, Master of the Needlemakers' Company, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Mansion House. Sir Edward *Howard, Judge Pownall, QC and Mr* Deputy Michael Snyder were the speakers.

Institution of Electrical Engineers
Mrs Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, and the Bishop of Leicester were the principal speakers *at the annual dinner of the Institution* of Electrical Engineers held last night at Grosvenor House. Professor Sir David Davies, president, was in the chair. The Lord President of the Council and the High Commissioner for Zimbabwe were among those present.

Association of Lancastrians in London
Mr Thomas P. Frost, President of the Association of Lancastrians in London, presided at the annual City dinner held last night at Butchers' Hall. Sir John Banham, Chairman of the Local Government Commission for England, was the guest speaker.

F.J.A. Cruso's
The F.J.A. Cruso Dinner was held on Tuesday, February 21, at the Institute of Directors.

Industrial Tribunals
Judge Lawrence, President of the Industrial Tribunals for England and Wales, was the host at a dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club for the regional chairmen.

Service dinner

Council of TA & VR Associations
The Council of Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations held a dinner last night at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to bid farewell to Colonel W.P. Howells, Commodore J.W. Wightman, Colonel M.E. Han-Cook and Brigadier P.C. Bowser. General Sir John Akehurst, chairman of the associations, presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Le Brun, painter, Paris, 1619; Catherine I, Empress of Russia 1725-27, Dorpat, Estonia, 1684; James Quin, actor, London, 1693; Samuel Wesley, musician, Bristol, 1766; Wilhelm Grimm, historian and folklore collector, Hanau, Germany, 1786; Samuel Lover, novelist, songwriter and painter, Dublin, 1797; Winslow Homer, painter, Boston, Massachusetts, 1836; George Moore, novelist, Ballyglass, Co Mayo, 1852; Arnold Dolmetsch, musician, Le Mans, 1858; Sir Arthur Pearson, newspaper proprietor, Wookey, Somerset, 1866.

DEATHS: Henry Cavendish, physicist and chemist, London, 1810; Robert Fulton, steamboat pioneer, New York, 1815; Thomas Bowdler, self-appointed Shakespearean censor, Swansea, 1825; Edmund Armstrong, poet, Kingstown, Ireland, 1865.

The Flying Scotsman went into service, 1923.

Juan Perón was elected President of Argentina, 1946.

Mr Louis Heren

A memorial service for Louis Heren, a former deputy editor of *The Times*, will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on Tuesday, March 28, at 11.30.

Luncheons

HM Government
The Hon Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens, in honour of Dr Klaus Hänsch, President of the European Parliament.

Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea Chambers of Commerce
Mr Ken Crompton, Agent General for Victoria, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea Chambers of Commerce held yesterday at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel. Mr Michael Whalley, Chairman of the Australian British Chamber of Commerce, received the guests who included the High Commis*sioner and Deputy High Commis*sioner for Australia, the High Commissioner for New Zealand and the Agents General for South *and Western Australia.*

Institute of Physics
Dr C.A.P. Foxell, Immediate Past President of the Institute of Physics, presided at a luncheon given by the Institute at the Goring Hotel yesterday for representatives of the institute's corporate affiliate companies. Professor Sir John Cadogan, Director-General of Research Councils, was the speaker.

National Sporting Club
Mr Brian Clough was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr Bob Willis, chairman, presided.

The Park Tower Luncheon Club
The Park Tower Luncheon Club held a luncheon yesterday in Restaurant 101 Knightsbridge at The Sheraton Park Tower Hotel. Mr Derek Picot, General Manager, and Miss Jacqueline McCourt were the hosts and the guests were Miss June Whitfield, Mr Robin Oakley, Mr Kevin Carton, Mr Nigel Rees, Miss Emma Myant, Mr Alan Whicker, Miss Carol Adams, Miss Penny Vincenzi and Mr Peter Charlesworth.

Fan Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Fan Makers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr M.J. Crispin; Free Warden, Mr A.S. Collins; Foreign Warden, Mr N.G. Crispin.

At a dinner held afterwards at Skinners' Hall, the Master presented *Ms Kate Wells with a* medal to mark her winning the company's bursary at the Royal College of Art.

Mr Alderman L.J. Chalstrey, Master of the Society of Apothecaries, Mr D.A. Collins and Mr A.R. O'Hagan, Assistant, also spoke.

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Show yourselves innocent and above reproach, faultless children of God in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in a depraved world. Philippians 2 : 15 (REB).

BIRTHS

DAVISON - On 7th February 1995, at home, to Neil and Annette (née Makepeace), a son, Huw, a brother for Katie and Jack. Special thanks to Sister Lynne Lyne.

EDELSTEN - To Simon and Alison (née Window) a daughter, on 17th February.

HAMIL - On Sunday January 29th at The Whittington Hospital, Highgate, to Diane, a son, Dylan Colgan Hamil (6lbs 15oz).

MACDONELL - On February 23rd 1995, to Belinda and Michael, a son.

MERRICK - On February 18th, to Anne (née Boycott) and Keith, a daughter, Natasha Imogen.

PIPER - On 18th February, to Rachel (née Bagley) and Adam, a son, Samuel George Geoffrey.

ROBERTS - On 21st February, to Hamish and Debbie, a daughter, Lily Charlotte Astley.

RUSSELL - On February 19th 1995, to Elizabeth (née Marmers) and Alexander, a son, John, a brother for Sophie and Rose.

SHERWOOD - On February 14th 1995, at Poole General Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Craig) and Geoffrey, a son, William Barnaby.

SOUTHGATE - *On 12th* February 1995, to Jacqueline (née Thompson) and Michael, a beautiful daughter, Olivia Rose Alice.

STOCCO - On 22nd February, at Macclesfield, to Abigail (née Rose) and Roberto, a daughter, Francesca Josephine, a sister for Joshua, a cousin for Benjamin and Nicholas.

WAY - On February 2nd, to Leena (née Popat) and Nicholas, a son, Emil Charles Karsen.

WINTHROP - On February 19th, to Joyce and Ian, a darling daughter, Alicia Joy.

DEATHS

ADLAM - On February 20th 1995, peacefully at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, after a short illness, Avis Marjorie (née Collins) OBE, JP, aged 82 years. Wife of the late Bernard Stephen Adlam and mother of Simon, Nicholas and Martin. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, St Neots, on Tuesday February 28th at 2pm, followed by private cremation at Cambridge. No flowers, donations if desired to St Nicolas PCC, Hall Weston, c/o T.L. Cobbold, 23 New Street, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE19 1AB.

BALL - On 19th February 1995, at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, Allan Ian Russell, F.R.P.S. aged 80 years. Much loved brother of Eileen and uncle of Michael. Funeral Service on Tuesday 28th February at 1 pm at Golders Green Crematorium. Flowers if desired or donations to The Friends of The Royal Free Hospital c/o J.H. Keavon, 9 Pond Street, Hampstead, NW3 2PN.

BULKELEY - Peacefully at Eastbourne on February 22nd 1995, the lovely Annie. Beloved wife of the late Justus and adored matriarch of the Bulkeley Family.

BUSSMANN - On February 20th at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Magdalene Eva, widow of Hans Bernard, mother of Sybil and Thomas, grandmother and great-grandmother. In her 94th year.

CATTLEY - On February 22nd 1995, Eric Sackville Wiltman, aged 86 years. For 62 years much loved and loving husband of Hester, very dear father of Carol, Nicola and Susie, loving grandfather of Jessica, Henry and Charlotte and great-grandfather of Colin. Funeral Wednesday March 1st, service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Oreston, Plymouth, 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. All enquiries to Walter Parson, Salisbury House, St Judes, Plymouth (07522 668438.

DEATHS

DALZELL - Lady Muriel Marjorie, on February 18th at home aged 92. Funeral Service at Wedmore Parish Church, Somerset, on February 28th at 11 am, followed by cremation at Weston-super-Mare. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to RSPCA.

de SOISSONS - On February 23rd, at the BUPA Hospital, Norwich, Daphne Evelyn (née Brooke), much loved wife and mother.

GOODSON - On 21st February 1995, suddenly in hospital, Derek of Ruislip, Middlesex, aged 74 years. Dearly loved husband of Margaret (née McGuire) and devoted father of Martin (Mark) and Andrew. Funeral at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 28th February at The Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for The British Lung Foundation or the R.S.P.B., to H.G. Ormstead & Son, 92 High Street, Ruislip HA4 7AA.

HARE - Richard George Windham Hare, R.N. O.B.E. (Retired) of Riverleigh Farmcy, Co. Cork. Passed peacefully to rest at Padre Pio Villa Glenabo on February 21st 1995. Much loved father of Vivien, Caroline and Virginia. He has joined his beloved Doreen. Service at 11.30 am on Monday February 27th at Christ Church, Ballybooly, followed by burial. No flowers.

HERRIOT - James. See Wight.

KINAHAN - On February 22nd 1995, peacefully at her home The Bank Street Hotel, Knightsbridge, Mavis, beloved wife of Stephen, sister of Enid Chamelle and deeply loved by many friends and family. Funeral Service to be held at Golders Green Crematorium on Monday 27th February at 1pm. No flowers by request.

DEATHS

McNAMEE - Suddenly at home, Anna Loretta M.B.E., formerly of the Civil Service. Beloved aunt and great-aunt and sister-in law to Doris. Funeral Service at Hawkinge Crematorium on Tuesday 28th February at 2 pm. Family flowers only to Chittenden's Ltd., 1 Ingoldsby Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6JJ.

MILLARD - On February 22nd, peacefully in a nursing home, David aged 93 years. Greatly loved husband of the late Kay, dear father of Ann, Paul and John and devoted grandfather and great-grandfather. Service at St John's Church, Shirley Church Road, Shirley, on Tuesday February 28th at 11 am. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, for The Stroke Association may be sent to J.B. Shakespeare Ltd., 67 George Street, Croydon.

PAILLOT - On February 17th, at The General Hospital, Jersey, Col. John Paillot aged 93, husband of the late Beatrice (née Simpson) of St Martin, Jersey. Cremation at St Helier's Crematorium on Tuesday February 28th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired to "Gunners Heritage" Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, London SE17 4SH.

PAYNE - Vivian on February 21st at Epsom Hospital. Widow of James, much loved daughter of Clare Reader and mother of Ivy, Bob, Sandra, Sally and Susan. Her love and affection will be missed by all her family.

SCANNELL - Timothy Dermot (Tim) on 22nd February 1995. Senior Lecturer/Consultant Psychiatrist, Barts, Hospital and Brookside Y.P.U. Died peacefully aged 43 years. Brother of Lis, Michelle and Peter.

DEATHS

RENNIE - On February 22nd, peacefully at a private nursing home, William James Horsburgh Rennie, C.Eng., F.I.C.E., aged 97 years of Aghavea Glebe, Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh and formerly of Finchley, devoted husband of the late Lavinia and a much loved and loving brother, uncle and great-uncle. For many years a Director of Charles Brand & Son Ltd., and later of Brush & Rennie. Funeral Service at Roselawn Crematorium, Belfast, on Monday 27th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. House Private. Very deeply regretted by his family and a wide circle of friends.

SELLERS - On 22nd February, peacefully at home in Islington, Spa, much loved wife and mother. Private cremation, family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Macmillan Fund.

SEXTY - Pamela Joan of Ross-on-Wye, formerly of London. Passed away on 22nd February in St Michael's Hospice, Hereford. Much loved Wife of Roger, Mummy of Victoria and Daughter of Grandpa. This wonderful lady will be in our hearts forever.

SILLARS - On February 22nd, suddenly at home, Anstey, beloved husband of Anne, father of Stuart and Charlotte and father-in-law to B. Private cremation, followed by Thanksgiving at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Tunstall, Sittingbourne, Kent, on Friday 3rd March at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Tunstall Church Bell Restoration Fund c/o R. High & Sons Ltd., 1 Bayford Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. tel: (01795) 472988.

STUART - On February 21st peacefully in a nursing home in Tunbridge Wells, Dastune aged 78 years. Enquiries to T.W. Boorman Funeral Services, 31 Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8AA. tel: (01892) 541070.

DEATHS

TAPLIN - Susan, peacefully, gently at Cashes Green. Much, much loved mother of Oliver, John, Jessica, Mark and Jutia and grandmother of Phoebe, Nat, Hannah, Sam, Alice, Robin, Silvia, Miranda. Nearer God's heart.

WIGHT - James Alfred (James Herriot) F.R.C.V.S. O.B.E. Veterinary Surgeon and Author. Beloved husband of Joan, father of Jim and Rosie, grandfather of Emma, Nicholas, Zoe and Katrina. Died peacefully at home on 23rd February after a long illness courageously borne. Funeral private. No letters or flowers please. Donations, if desired, to The Jerry Green Foundation (animal shelter), Catton, Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

WYKEHAM - On Thursday 23rd February, Air Marshal Sir Peter Wykeham, KCB, DSO, DFC, AFC, FRAeS, CBIM, died peacefully at home aged 79 years. Beloved husband of Sadie, Bill and Joel.

YOUNGS - On February 23rd at the Chaucer Hospital, Canterbury, Hugh Rodwell aged 82 years. Youngest son of the late John and Sarah Young of King's Lynn, Norfolk and ever dear brother of Olive Youngs. Funeral Service at 1.30 pm on Friday March 3rd at Barham Crematorium, near *Canterbury. Flowers,* or donations to R.N.L.I. to Chittenden's Funeral Services Ltd., 1 Ingoldsby Road, Folkestone.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

OLIVER - In memory of Peter, Col. P.R. Oliver, 9th Frontier Force Rifles, killed in action near Meiktila, Burma on 26th February 1945 - 50 years ago today. Jean.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BAGNALL - Georgina, December 6th 1972 - February 24th 1994. Remembering so much laughter and love. M.D & R. xxxx

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

CARRIGE-FLETCHER - On 26th February 1945 David and Yvonne were married at St Michael's, Chester Square, London SW1 by Canon F.H. Gillingham.

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BIRTHDAYS

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OBITUARIES

JAMES HERRIOT

James Herriot (J. A. Wight, OBE), author and veterinary surgeon, died yesterday at his Yorkshire home aged 78. He was born on October 3, 1916.



THROUGH his books, on the large screen and, pre-eminently, through the massively popular television series which vividly chronicled the tribulations of a country veterinary practice in Yorkshire, James Herriot became, simply, the best-known vet in the world. His creator J. A. (Alf) Wight was, simply, a typical country vet in Thirsk, Yorkshire.

Wight's alter ego distilled the everyday experiences of veterinary life into anecdotes that epitomised older values in communities far removed from the aggressive world of today. The gentle courtesy of the fictional practice's members: James, himself; the kindly, quizzical Siegfried; and the not always reliable Tristan, often seemed to be pitted against rugged, sometimes dour dale folk who demanded, above all things, value for money.

Yet never did they allow themselves to be ruffled by the rude reception they might get, after turning out at some ungodly hour to make a journey over rain and windswept terrain to tend a sick animal in a noisome byre. In the hands of Herriot and his fellow practitioners the trade of vet seemed to go far beyond the mere business of healing animals; it became a unifying force in the far-flung farmsteads of Yorkshire's hills and dales.

In an age addicted to increasingly violent forms of stimulation, on the page as on the screen, Herriot's gentle books seized the public imagination and their author became one of the most successful popular novelists of the century. Besides more than a dozen titles with multimillion sales, there were two films, *All Creatures Great and Small* (1974) and *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet* (1976) and half a dozen television series which, with repeats and overseas sales, have been shown almost continuously somewhere in the world since they began in 1978. "Herriot Country" tours, photographs and souvenirs were aspects of a whole industry spawned by this veterinary icon and yet the product never, somehow, lost its original innocence of impulse; nor was it ever false to the values of the country that had spawned it. The Yorkshire villages which sired their fictional veterinary hero never had cause to be ashamed of their progeny.

Born in Scotland, James Alfred Wight was educated at Hillhead High School and Glasgow Veterinary College. But he came south of the border to begin veterinary practice in Thirsk where, with a break for war service in the RAF, he remained ever afterwards.

He might, to this day, be doing his rounds on windswept Yorkshire hills if, at the age of 50, he had not been persuaded by his wife Joan to put into book form some of the anecdotes which had made him so popular as a raconteur in the pubs, homes and farmsteads of the district. The result of his first endeavours was *If Only They Could Talk*, which did not immediately recommend itself to publishers. However, after a number of refusals it eventually saw the light of day in 1970, and was kindly, if rather condescendingly, reviewed.

It was followed in 1972 with *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet*, which did slightly better. Then Herriot's agent took the books over to the United States. A compilation was published under the title *All Creatures Great and Small*. In the US it achieved an immense success and by the time Herriot published again in England he found that he was almost a household name. *All Creatures Great and Small*, that disarming second line of the well-known harvest festival hymn, became, almost, the signature by which his work was recognised, and the title of several television series.

Wight never let the Herriot persona take him over. He visited the United States, attended book launches and did such promotional work as his publishers persuaded him was essential. But as soon as he could, he would complain that the practice was suffering because the waiting room was full of American tourists rather than clients.

Although the Herriot books (and the television series) evoked the ethos of an age which had actually disappeared before he began writing about it, they had an extraordinary practical influence. They transformed the image of the vet to the extent that a generation of urban children grew up wanting to become vets. Before James Herriot, many vets came from a farming or rural backgrond. Their professional training had only recently been upgraded to require a degree before qualification. Recruitment to the profession was so slack that the British Veterinary Association was seeking funds for a promotional film to encourage young people to train as vets.

Post-Herriot, applications for the UK's veterinary schools increased to a level exceeding the number of places available, so that the A-level entry requirements had to be set higher than for any other course, including human medicine. The fame of Wight's fictional vet had other spin-offs. When the public got to know, in 1989, that the Government intended to close two veterinary schools and that one of them was Glasgow, Herriot's *alma mater*, they rushed to sign the petition opposing the closure. Glasgow Veterinary College remained open.

Despite the royalties that poured in from books, films and television, J. A. Wight's way of life changed hardly at all; this modest best-selling author resisted all attempts to convince him that from the tax point of view he would be far better off living abroad.

Throughout, he remained popular with his fellow practitioners. He was very proud of his profession and of being elected an honorary member of the British Veterinary Association in 1975 and a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1982.

Yet the tribute he valued as highly as any came from a local farmer. Told that Mr Wight, his vet of many years, was the famous writer James Herriot, he said, after a pause, "Well, he's nota bad veterinary, either".

He is survived by his wife Joan, whom he married in 1941, and by their son and daughter.

LADY KELLY



Mr and Mrs David Kelly in 1932

Lady Kelly, diplomatic hostess, traveller and writer, died on February 22 aged 93. She was born on Christmas Day, 1901.

LADY KELLY was one of the *grandes dames* of British diplomacy. She was the widow of Sir David Kelly whose last posting, as the British Ambassador to Moscow, 1949-51, capped a long and distinguished career with the British Foreign Service. She also presided with great panache over embassies in Bern, Buenos Aires and Ankara. She was a warm woman, equally comfortable with writers, artists and politicians. Her husband once remarked that it was she who made all the friends in their marriage.

But though she was married to a British diplomat and wrote five books — including her autobiography, *Dawn to Dusk* (1960) — in English, Marie Noëlle Kelly in many ways preserved the attitudes and outlook of her strict Catholic, Belgian upbringing. She was born Renée Marie Noëlle Ghislaine, the eldest of three daughters of the Comte de Vaux, whose family had emigrated from France during the French Revolution. One of her ancestors was Maréchal Charles Noël de Jourda, the Comte de Vaux who had conquered Corsica for Louis XV. Her love of travel was inspired by her maternal grandfather Baron George Snoy, who had travelled the world and produced a series of travel guides in the 1860s.

Her father, who was disappointed at not having a son, gave his daughters a far higher standard of education than was common among girls of her background at the time. He taught them Classics and shared his love of French and English literature with them. Each of them had remarkable careers in their own right. Anne, the second, was the mother superior of the Sacré Coeur congregation at Liège. Louise, the youngest, is one of the leading ear, nose and throat specialists in Belgium.

Marie Noëlle first came to England during the First World War where she stayed in Shropshire as a guest of Lord Kenyon. She met her husband David Kelly — then recently widowed — at a party thrown by her aunt Enid at her grandparents' house near Waterloo in 1928. They were married the following year.

David Kelly came from Ulster but while he preserved many Anglo-Irish characteristics, he had converted to Catholicism during the First World War. He had then just been appointed Head of Chancery at the British Embassy. During the 1930s he was posted to Cairo and to Bern, and in 1942 as Ambassador in Buenos Aires, where he saw the triumph of General Perón. Marie Noëlle described the latter as "sleek, magnetic and common". During the Second World War, she was a tireless fundraiser: the British community there amassed some £3 million for the war effort in goods and provisions.

In 1946 they moved to Turkey, probably her favourite posting. At the suggestion of Sureya Agaoglu — the first woman barrister in Turkey — Lady Kelly (her husband had been created KCMG in 1942) gave a series of lectures there which were widely publicised and attended by the wives of many ministers including that of President Inonu. She and her husband also made contacts with most of the provincial governors and with the local press, and did much to maintain Turkish confidence in Britain at a time when the British economy was particularly shaky. She later described her travels there in the first of her books, *Turkish Delights* (1951). It was written with a light touch that concealed much solid research.

In the Soviet Union, where restrictions on foreign diplomats were severe, she and her husband obtained permission to travel more widely than any of their colleagues. Accompanied by the inevitable secret servicemen and armed with a pre-1914 Baedeker, they took their chances in local hotels and on train journeys lasting up to 24 hours with no food but what they carried. They made a serious of expeditions to the ancient provincial cities of European Russia, including Kiev which had been closed to diplomats for five years. These experiences formed the basis of her book *Mirror to Russia* (1952), a groundbreaking work at a time when the Soviet Union was still a mystery to the outside world, and now something of a collector's piece.

Her husband retired in 1951, having been advanced to GCMG in 1950, and they bought a lovely 18th-century house in Co Wexford, near his family home. Following his death in 1959 she continued to keep a cottage there. After all her travels it was probably Ireland that she loved most and it was there that she will be buried. She rode her horse there until three years ago, and knew all the local farmers and smallholders.

At her London flat in Carlyle Square, long after she had ceased to have a diplomatic staff, she continued to keep open house with great dash and, sometimes slapdash, élan. Her parties were a happy mixture of writers (she had been a close friend of Rebecca West and Freya Stark), diplomats, visiting foreigners and a smattering of young cousins.

Having moved innumerable times, she never lost the knack of creating a home wherever she settled. Nor did she lose her foreign accent, or ever appear less than impeccably turned out in public. There was no hint of vanity about this, rather, as always, a strong sense of duty and self-discipline.

She leaves her two sons.

OLEG LYALIN

Oleg Lyalin, KGB defector to Britain in the 1970s, died on February 12 aged 57 after a long illness. He was born on June 24, 1937.



Lyalin at an embassy function before his defection

WHEN, in the small hours of August Bank Holiday 1971, two Metropolitan Police constables apprehended a car driver whose vehicle had been careering erratically down Tottenham Court Road, they had no notion that they were stepping into the biggest spy drama of the era. The spectacularly inebriated individual behind the wheel of the errant Hillman was Oleg Lyalin, a KGB officer who had for some months been in contact with the British security services, prepared to offer sensitive information about Soviet activity in the country in exchange for a chance to make a new life for himself and his girlfriend in Britain.

His sudden arrest on a drink-drive charge was inconvenient, to say the least, as far as MI5 was concerned, and led to the acceleration of plans to enable Lyalin to defect. As a result of what he told his interrogators at his subsequent debriefing the Government, in one fell swoop, expelled 105 Soviet Embassy officials, causing political uproar at home and creating remarkable waves in the diplomatic community internationally.

Oleg Adolfovich Lyalin was born and grew up in Stavropol on the northern slopes of the Caucasus. He was recruited into the KGB in the 1950s and was posted to London in the 1960s as his first overseas tour. Ostensibly his job was that of a trade official and he was based in the consumer goods department of the Soviet Trade Delegation in Highate. The reality was that he was attached to the deadly and highly secretive Department V of the KGB which was responsible for assassination and sabotage worldwide.

In Britain specifically, Department V's job was to be ready to erode the effectiveness of the country's Nato installations at a moment's notice. Lyalin's personal task was to prepare to sabotage the radar station at Fylingdales on the North Yorkshire Moors, which had been constructed to give early warning of a Soviet nuclear missile attack. Frequent visits to Yorkshire as a "textile official" with the Soviet Trade Delegation gave protective colouring to his interest in the area.

In fact, although it was the avowed Soviet intention to activate such plans only in the event of war, Lyalin, running an extensive network of operatives, had brought the sabotage apparatus to such a state of readiness that severe damage could have been caused at a moment's notice.

Early in 1971, however, Lyalin contacted British security services declaring himself prepared to supply MI5 with information about Russian subversive activity in Britain if, in exchange, he could be offered a new life with his girlfriend Irina Teplyakova, a Soviet secretary.

Lyalin's arrest on a drink-driving charge threatened to upset these delicately poised negotiations. Thoroughly sobered up after a night in police cells, he determined to appeal to MI5 for help. His plea was quickly answered since MI5 did not want to let slip the chance of acquiring a potential defector who sounded as if he might be in possession of information of quite spectacular impact.

Released on bail of £50 from Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, Lyalin was whisked away to a safe house and effectively disappeared. His debriefing astonished even an expectant MI5, giving as it did incontrovertible evidence that large numbers of Soviet Embassy personnel who were ostensibly trade officials and diplomats formed in fact a huge spy and sabotage ring which was engaged on what were tantamount to acts of war.

For the Conservative Government of Edward Heath, which had long suspected that the KGB (and its military counterpart the GRU) regarded Britain as open house for its anti-Nato operations, these revelations were the last straw. In an unprecedented reaction the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, had 105 Soviet diplomats and other officials expelled from Britain, drastically and permanently curtailing the Soviet spying capacity in the country.

This was galling enough to Moscow which riposted by ordering 18 UK Embassy officials to leave the Soviet Union. But the damage to the Soviet intelligence-gathering capacity was augmented by what amounted almost to a panic reaction in KGB ranks to the thought that Lyalin might be doing untold harm by revealing what he knew of Department V's activities in other parts of the world.

Agents — including potential saboteurs and assassins — were ordered home with unseemly haste, sometimes so precipitately as to threaten their cover. From Montreal, Mexico City, Paris, Bonn and Athens, suspected spies decamped with a speed that made it quite obvious what they were. Meanwhile, at home, a number of Lyalin's accomplices who were not Soviet citizens were rounded up. Notable among these was Siroj Husein Abdoolcader, a Malaysian working in the vehicle licensing department of the Greater London Council, who was jailed for three years for giving information to the KGB about car registrations believed to be those of MI5 officers.

In all, Lyalin's revelations caused, as far as Western intelligence agencies were concerned, quite the most satisfactory panic that had occurred in KGB/GRU ranks for years. The Americans, in particular, much admired the British Government's robust action to reduce Soviet spy levels. Only in Britain were the Government's actions called into question, with Harold Wilson, Leader of the Opposition, voicing anxiety about the adverse effect on Anglo-Soviet relations and casting open doubt on Lyalin's importance within the Soviet secret intelligence system. This led to harsh exchanges between him and Mr Heath, both inside and outside the Commons.

Lyalin himself never returned to Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court. Charges against him were withdrawn and in October 1971 the Attorney-General, Sir Peter Rawlinson, told the House of Commons that to have proceeded further against him would have exposed him to the risk of assassination. Granted asylum, as was Irina Teplyakova, he disappared from public view, though he continued to remain in touch with the British intelligence community, providing valued analysis of information coming out of the Soviet Union for a number of years.

Oleg Lylalin married Irina Teplyakova and the pair are thought to have settled in the North of England. Latterly his health had deteriorated and he died at home.

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KEMPTON PARK MEETING.

AN UNPLEASANT SCENE.

A very unpleasant scene was enacted on the racecourse at Kempton Park yesterday directly after the race for the St. James's Hurdle.

Trash, a five-year-old horse, by the Tetrarch out of Allah, one of the best two-year-olds of his year, broke a foreleg at the last hurdles, and was pulled up near to the last hurdle. He stood still, showing no indication that he was in any pain. Horse's legs are callous in most cases. There was, however, only one thing to be done. Trash had to be shot, which was sad, for racehorses, in most cases, do not race for their own pleasure so much as for the pleasure of those people who attend race meetings. No doubt many people felt sorry.

There is nothing unpleasant in that, but within a few moments of the accident the horse was surrounded by a crowd of inquisitive men—and women—of all classes. When they saw the nature of the accident, and learned—

ON THIS DAY

February 24 1923

The crowd that gathered to watch the shooting of an injured racehorse disgusted The Times's *correspondent at the course*

—as they did very quickly—that Trash would have to be shot where he stood, it might be supposed that they would have departed silently. That was the last thing that they did. A very large crowd of quite respectable-looking men and women—there were naturally some hooligans present as well—stood and watched an exceedingly good-looking thoroughbred shot and then hoisted into the knacker's cart. After being witness from the stands of this disgusting episode, I shall find it difficult to argue with those narrow-minded and ignorant people who consider that all people who go racing are unpleasant. There were many unpleasant people at Kempton Park yesterday.

FOOT-LONG CENTIPEDES.

Mr. R. B. Murray, on a recent visit to Trinidad, captured a number of very large centipedes, two of which he succeeded in bringing to England alive for presentation to the Zoo. They are now in the Insect House and should prove a great attraction. Each is rather more than a foot long, and at the broadest part nearly half an inch across.. They are dark brown with rings on the long feelers and on the legs, a pair of which project from each flattened segment of the body. These tropical centipedes live in shady places, hidden under bark, stones, or dead leaves, and moving chiefly at night. They run quickly and can climb vertical surfaces if there is any foothold for their claws. They are entirely carnivorous, living on insects, grubs, and small birds or mammals, which they kill with their venom.

The wounds made by the sharp claws are extremely painful. The bite is very painful to human beings, but has not been known to be fatal, although it causes insomnia, local swelling, and occasionally ulcers.

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24 1995

NEWS

Major gambles on rebel MPs

■ *John Major* has decided to put his authority on the line in a knife-edge vote on Europe next week in which the Government's fate might be decided by its nine whipless rebels.

In a move that surprised his supporters and opponents the Prime Minister opted to spearhead the Government's defence against a Labour motion attacking its policy on Europe. Defeat could lead to the fall of the Government ..... **Page 1**

Middle classes desert the Tories

■ The middle classes have become increasingly gloomy about the economic outlook and are deserting the Tories on a record scale. Labour support has risen two percentage points to 58 per cent since the end of January, while the Tory rating has slipped three points to 24 per cent after the exposure of splits in the Cabinet over Europe ..... **Page 1**

Graham's £425,000

George Graham, who was sacked as manager of Arsenal, received £425,500 commission for the transfer of two Scandinavian footballers..... **Page 1**

Herriot dies

James Herriot, the world's most famous vet, died at the age of 78 in his home at Thirsk, in North Yorkshire, the town that was the model for Darrowby in *All Creatures Great and Small* .... **Page 1**

Ferries blockaded

Striking French seamen held up thousands of holidaymakers with a violent blockade of Calais which forced ferries to divert to Zeebrugge ..... **Page 1**

Unionists criticised

Ulster businessmen said that Unionist politicians who condemned the Anglo-Irish framework document have lost touch with grassroots opinion.... **Page 2**

Fry 'in France'

Stephen Fry, the actor who vanished in "emotional turmoil" after quitting his West End show, was seen on a ferry to France by two passengers on Monday .... **Page 3**

Court clash

A senior judge and a former Bar Council chairman were involved in a personal clash in the Court of Appeal after the judge refused to adjourn a case so that the QC could arange his father's funeral ..... **Page 5**

Huskies die

A fatal illness has struck the last surviving British huskies after they were taken from Antarctica to Inukjuak on the edge of Hudson Bay..... **Page 7**

Justice body

The Government is proposing to set up an independent organisation to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice ..... **Page 8**

Boy, 14, cleared

A 14-Year-old Pakistani Christian who faced execution for blasphemy was cleared and ordered to be immediately freed by Lahore High Court. But Salamat Masih faces almost certain death if he returns home ..... **Page 12**

No free lunch

Almost nothing in the Republicans' Contract With America has caused such a furore as the attempt to scrap the Government's school-lunch programme and to send lump sums to the states to feed children..... **Page 13**

CIA controversy

Controversy over the French decision to ask five alleged CIA agents to leave Paris was moving to the centre of the country's election campaign..... **Page 14**

Belgian scandal

A slow-burning but devastating political scandal is wreaking havoc inside the Belgian political class and seems sure to dominate a general election..... **Page 15**

£300,000 tag on 'worthless' pictures

■ A banker whose collection of 19th-century watercolours a London auction house regarded as worthless ten years ago has been told they could now fetch up to £300,000. The BBC's *Antiques Road Show* stumbled across the book of 25 paintings by the Filipino artist José Honorato Lozano during filming in Brussels this week ..... **Page 9**

JAMES MORGAN



Tony Blair, who claims that Labour now speaks for middle-income Britain, leaving Waterloo for Bournemouth yesterday. MORI, page 1

BUSINESS

Power struggle: Northern Electric predicted that it would retain its independence after Trafalgar House raised its bid to £11 a share, somewhat short of the expected "knock-out" price ..... **Page 23**

Executive pay: Two-thirds of British managers believe that company directors' earnings should be restricted..... **Page 23**

ICI: The chemicals group, disappointed investors by leaving its final dividend unchanged even though it reported sharply higher earnings and much lower debts..... **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 29.8 to 3049.3. Sterling's index rose from 87.1 to 87.4 after a rise from $1.5885 to $1.5920 and from DM2.3314 to DM2.3442..... **Page 26**

SPORT

Rugby union: Ireland have dropped Keith Wood, their highly rated hooker, in one of three changes for the match against France, who have themselves made six changes..... **Page 44**

Golf: Robert Karlsson, the tallest player on the PGA European Tour, took the first-round lead in the Turespaña Open Mediterrania with a course record 64.... **Page 42**

Rugby league: David Myers, the Bradford Northern wing, has been banned for the rest of the domestic season and fined £250 for running into the back of a referee... **Page 41**

Motor racing: The Pacific team, a regular non-qualifier last season but now linked with Lotus, launched its new Formula One car in London..... **Page 42**

ARTS

Classic farce: Michael Frayn's *Noises Off*, now in Birmingham, is an ingeniously engineered, scrupulously timed, door-slamming, prop-juggling, and escalatingly absurd comedy..... **Page 33**

All Greek to me: The triennial Cambridge Greek play is still ebulliently alive after 110 years. The cast clearly do not think Aristophanes a boring old fart..... **Page 33**

Literal lovers: It has taken English National Ballet eight years to revive Nureyev's *Romeo and Juliet*, a production that interprets Shakespeare far too literally ..... **Page 34**

Pop on Friday: In America, the complaining grunge bands have been overtaken by a new wave of groups whose music is brash, breezy and anxiety-free ..... **Page 35**

FEATURES

Lesson in determination: Valerie Grove meets the aggrieved school principal who set the bailiffs on to Harrods..... **Page 17**

Exit right: Stephen Fry's fans will be happy to to welcome him back — when he's good and ready, Libby Purves writes..... **Page 17**

Roman candle: John Phillips talks about *maschilismo* with Irene Pivetti, the youngest Speaker of the Italian Parliament ..... **Page 16**

Shocking success: Julia Llewellyn Smith investigates the birth of *Killer Joe*, a gory but praise-spattered play by actor Tracy Letts... **Page 16**

INFOTECH

Window on China: As part of a promotions drive, Microsoft is to train 2,500 Chinese to become software experts..... **Page 37**

Virtual study: You can now use a personal computer to "attend" lectures for an MBA course.. **Page 36**

THE PAPERS

We welcome news that modern techniques in biology have brought a growing consensus that the concept of race has little basis in science — *Los Angeles Times*

The framework document represents a rare chance to let go of old hatreds. All over the world — from Cambodia to El Salvador to the Middle East — old enemies are struggling in this direction. The citizens of Northern Ireland deserve no less— *The New York Times*



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ TECHNO CHIC
Iain R. Webb on designer experiments in the science of style

■ REVIEWS
Jonathan Meades on another Marco protégé; Marcel Berlins on *The Advocate's Devil*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Enthusiastic snappers of all abilities are the target of a new series, *The Photo Show* (BBC2, 8pm). **Review:** BBC1's *Crown Prosecutor* has Lynne Truss in stitches, but it was not meant to be funny..... **Page 43**

OPINION

France at sea

The blockade of the Channel ports by striking French seamen is an outrage..... **Page 19**

Appealing proposals

Michael Howard's announcement of a new Criminal Cases Review Commission deserves support..... **Page 19**

Homo loquens

According to a recent research paper nearly 3,000 languages could become extinct over the next hundred years ..... **Page 19**

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN
Very many trilingual scholars of the highest renown have studied the matter and have come to the conclusion that the Second World War has finished; of course, although absolute certainty cannot be claimed, the Swiss trilingual man in the trilingual Swiss street is, albeit carefully, behaving as though there is no longer any use for blackout curtains and bomb-proof air-raid shelters..... **Page 18**

MICHAEL PINTO-DUCHINSKY
According to the Nolan committee's approach, the prescription of a cure does not depend on establishing the nature and the extent of the disease ..... **Page 18**

PHILIP HOWARD
Fragments of the old common stock of Eurostories, such as Noah's Ark and the Trojan Horse have lived on into our age of wider but shallower general knowledge ..... **Page 18**

MATTHEW PARRIS
Lord Nolan has one of those round, amiable, glowing faces that speak of Wright's Coal Tar soap and a vigorous towel-dry ..... **Page 2**

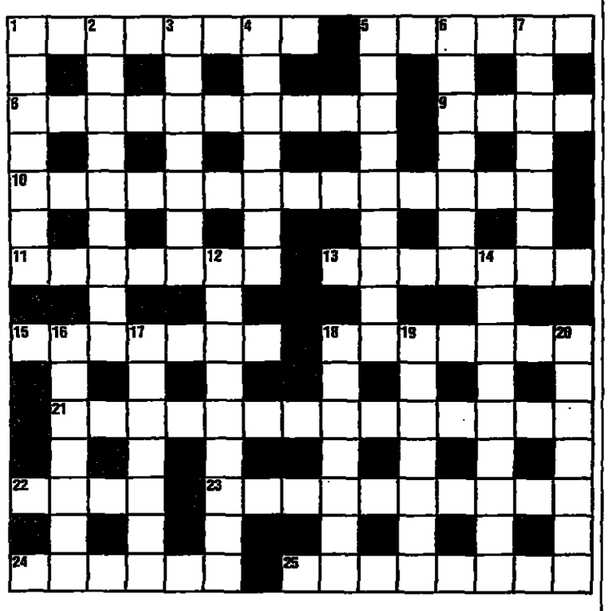
OBITUARIES

James Herriot, author and veterinary surgeon; **Oleg Lyalin**, KGB defector to Britain; **Lady Kelly**, diplomatic hostess..... **Page 21**

LETTERS

Caring for the aged; prison visits; Spitfire's creator; Mines Awareness Day..... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,787



ACROSS

1 Late pupil has impot modified (8).
5 Stoop to pick up second object (6).
8 Double number round scene of fighting (4,6).
9 A couple of seconds for religious work (4).
10 Soldier attached to army unit for this enterprise (7,7).
11 Cunning isn't commonly included in such qualities (7).
13 German city's Irish quarter (7).
15 Dance around a baker's first cake (3,4).
18 Stand for displaying nondescript article (7).
21 Test audience's conclusion on revolutionary music (14).
22 A princess in operetta — or opera (4).
23 Extremely urgent mood (10).
24 Turn to examine inside tree or shrub (6).
25 Mixed one a pure white (8).

DOWN

1 Work about Edward I, a tragic king (7).
2 Revolutionary lists main Communist principles (9).
3 Chap holding rod getting agitated — trout finally biting (7).
4 Treatment's given here to hide strain girl's in (7).
5 Trap set under missile in naval base (9).
6 Deep, deep singer's part of catch (3,4).
7 Praise hard worker audibly? Good heavens! (5,2).
12 Dissolute Wooster endlessly getting into row (9).
14 In torment, as a talent is misdirected (9).
16 In public service, lack of effectiveness gets head dismissed (7).
17 Two pieces that a minor player plays (3,4).
18 Painter gets engineer a drink in France (7).
19 Fruit in a little case taken to a party (7).
20 The means of control in that situation (7).

The solution of The Eliminator Puzzle, No 19,786, will appear on Thursday, March 2, 1995

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glocs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereids & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Dishforth, North Yorkshire, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch and Aviemore, Highland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 1.06in; highest sunshine: Margate, Kent, 5.4hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of southeast England, Wales and the Midlands will be cloudy with outbreaks of generally light rain. Southwest England will turn brighter but windy with showers for a time and further rain later. Northeast counties will have broken cloud and will stay largely dry.

Northern Ireland and Scotland will start cloudy with outbreaks of rain, falling as sleet or snow in the north and over higher ground. Some showers will be heavy, perhaps with hail and thunder. Winds will be light for a time, though it will be cold.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind westerly light to moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England:** clear spells, rain for a time. Wind westerly light to moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales:** cloudy with rain, drier for a time. Wind westerly moderate. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** cloudy with rain, sleet or snow on the higher ground. Wind northwest to west, mainly moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** mainly dry, clear spells. Wind westerly, moderate becoming light. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** showers, some heavy and possibly with hail or thunder. Snow over hills. Winds northwesterly moderate to fresh. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** further rain spreading from the west into southern parts, with showers in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.7	0.03	6	43	c	Liverpool	0.4	0.47	10	50	f
Anglesey	-	0.37	9	48	sl	London	1.8	-	10	50	c
Aspatria	0.1	0.73	6	43	r	Lowestoft	4.1	-	10	50	s
Aviemore	1.3	0.67	3	37	sn	Manchester	-	0.35	9	48	sl
Belfast	2.0	0.75	5	41	sl	Margate	5.4		10	50	b
Birmingham	0.1	0.16	10	50	f	Minehead	0.9	0.19	11	52	f
Bognor R	2.0	-	10	50	c	Morecambe	0.3	0.65	9	48	h
Bournem'th	-	0.10	10	50	s	Newcastle	-	0.58	8	46	r
Bristol	0.4	0.24	10	50	f	Newquay	-	0.19	10	50	r
Buxton	-	0.41	7	45	sn	Norwich	2.5	-	9	48	c
Cardiff	-	0.24	9	48	sl	Nottingham	X				
Clacton	1.4	0.25	9	48	c	Oxford	2.9	0.17	10	50	c
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	0.1	0.39	11	52	h
Colwyn Bay	-	0.86	8	46	r	Plymouth	0.2	0.22	10	50	h
Cromer	1.2	-	9	48	c	Poole	1.3	0.08	10	50	r
Doncaster	0.9	0.20	10	50	r	Prestatyn	X	0.50	10	50	r
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	0.2	0.39	9	48	f
Eastbourne	4.7	-	9	48	b	Ryde	X				
Edinburgh	0.2	0.46	7	45	r	Sandown	2.7	0.01	10	50	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.90	5	41	sn	Saunton Snd	-	0.15	10	50	c
Exmouth	0.7	0.31	10	50	r	Scarboro'	-	0.14	7	45	r
Falmouth	X	0.32	10	50	r	Scilly Isles	-	0.26	10	50	r
Fishguard	-	0.44	8	46	r	Shanklin	1.1	0.01	9	48	r
Folkestone	5.3	-	10	50	b	Shrewsbury	X				
Glasgow	0.1	0.85	5	41	sh	Sheerness	-	-	9	48	c
Guernsey	-	-	11	52	c	Southend	4.8	-	9	48	s
Hastings	4.8	-	9	48	s	Southport	0.5	0.67	10	50	r
Hayling I.	2.7	-	9	48	g	Southsea	2.1	-	9	48	c
Herne Bay	4.3	-	9	48	b	Stornoway	2.4	0.34	6	43	sn
Hove	2.0	-	9	48	du	Swanage	1.7	0.01	10	50	c
Hunstanton	-	-	10	50	c	Teignmouth	1.9	0.35	10	50	r
Isle of Man	0.9	0.84	9	48	r	Tenby	0.2	0.46	10	50	c
Jersey	5.4	0.07	10	50	s	Tiree	2.5	0.48	7	45	sl
Kinloss	2.2	0.09	6	43	sh	Torquay	1.9	0.30	10	50	r
Leeds	4.2	0.56	10	50	f	Tynemouth	-	0.41	8	46	c
Lerwick	5.2	0.14	5	41	h	Ventnor	2.4	-	9	48	g
Leuchars	0.6	0.44	6	41	h	Weymouth	1.4	0.01	10	50	g
Littlehmptn	2.5	-	10	50	b						

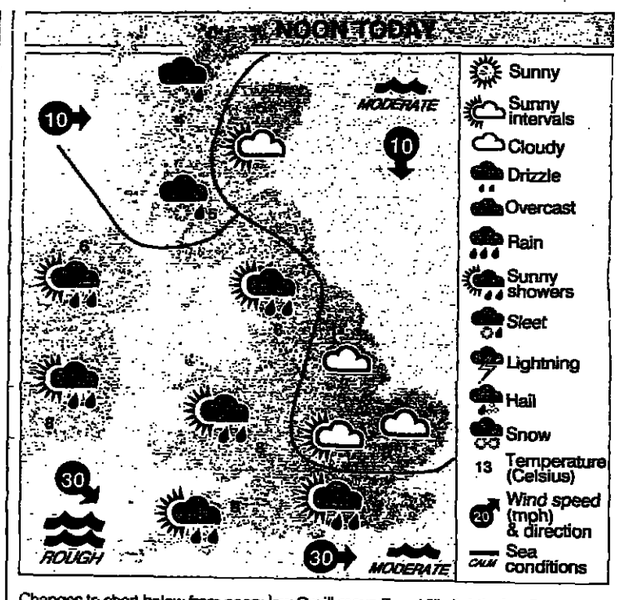
These are Wednesday's figures

ABROAD

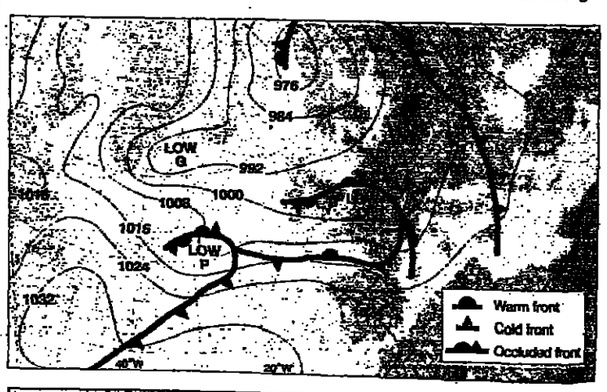
Ajaccio	14	57	s	Corfu	18	61	s	Majorca	13	55	c
Akrotiri	19	66	s	Dublin	6	43	s	Malaga	19	66	s
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Malta	17	63	f
Algiers	15	59	c	Faro	16	61	s	Melb'rne	20	68	f
Amst'dm	8	46	s	Florence	11	52	f	Mexico C	18	64	s
Athens	18	64	s	Frankfurt	8	43	s	Miami	21	70	s
Bahrain	21	70	f	Funchal	17	63	f	Milan	9	48	c
Bangkok	32	90	s	Geneva	8	43	s	Montreal	-9	16	s
Barcelona	9	48	r	Gibraltar	16	61	s	Moscow	2	36	c
Beirut	17	63	s	Helsinki	2	36	sn	Munich	8	46	f
Belgrade	14	57	s	Hong K	15	59	f	Nairobi	27	81	s
Berlin	8	46	s	Innsbrck	6	43	c	Naples	16	61	s
Bermuda	20	68	s	Istanbul	11	52	s	N Delhi	19	66	f
Biarritz	10	50	s	Jeddah	26	79	s	N York	2	36	s
Borde'x	10	50	f	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Nice	12	54	r
Brussels	8	46	s	Karachi	27	81	s	Oslo	1	34	f
Budapst	11	52	f	L Palmes	20	68	f	Paris	8	46	f
B Aires	23	73	f	La Toquet	9	48	s	Peking	10	50	s
Cairo	17	63	c	Lisbon	12	54	s	Perth	36	97	s
Capa Tn	29	82	s	Locarno	11	52	c	Prague	8	46	s
Chicago	7	45	f	L Angels	17	63	c	Reykjavik	0	32	s
Ch'church	21	70	fr	Luxembg	4	39	c	Rhodes	18	64	s
Cologne	8	46	s	Luxor	20	68	f	Rio de J	34	93	s
C'phagn	5	41	c	Madrid	8	46	s	Riyadh	27	81	s
								Rome	13	55	f
								Salzburg	7	45	f
								S F'risco	12	54	c
								Santiago	21	70	s
								S Paulo	31	88	c
								Seoul	6	43	s
								Sing'por	30	86	f
								Srinkolm	0	32	sn
								Strasb'rg	9	48	s
								Sydney	26	79	s
								Tangier	15	59	f
								Tel Aviv	13	55	f
								Tenerife	20	68	c
								Tokyo	10	50	s
								Toronto	-5	23	f
								Tunis	21	70	s
								Valencia	10	50	r
								Vanc'ver	7	45	c
								Venice	10	50	f
								Vienna	7	45	s
								Warsaw	8	43	c
								Wash'ton	4	39	s
								Wel'ngton	19	66	r
								Zurich	5	41	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low O will move E and fill slightly; low P will move E and deepen, then move into Continent and fill; low G will drift E with little change



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7:53	5.86	8.51	5.76	Leith	9:23	4.56	10:03	4.64
Aberdeen	8:21	3.59	9:06	3.63	Liverpool	5:52	7.89	6:35	7.69
Avonmouth	1:09	10.35	2:04	10.22	Lowestoft	3:57	2.13	4.35	2.04
Belfast	5:50	2.99	6.36	3.09	Margate	6:26	4.02	7:08	3.89
Cardiff	1.20	9.48	2:03	9.45	Milford Haven	0:33	5.48	1.21	5.39
Devonport	–	–	0:41	4.39	Newquay	–	–	0:34	5.51
Dover	5:31	5.63	6:21	5.48	Oban	0:24	2.99	1:31	2.68
Dublin	6:38	3.60	7:25	3.68	Penzance	11:50	4.31	–	–
Falmouth	–	–	0:19	4.30	Portland	0:28	1.49	0.57	1.39
Glasgow	7:23	3.99	7:46	4.13	Portsmouth	5:49	4.01	6.44	3.94
Harwich	6:12	3.39	6:55	3.25	Shoreham	5:42	4.98	6.35	4.88
Holyhead	5:04	4.55	5:56	4.50	Southampton	5:21	3.91	6.11	3.79
Hull	0.27	8.37	1.17	8.10	Swansea	0:41	7.65	1.24	7.57
Ilfracombe	0.13	7.41	0:56	7.33	Tees	10:40	4.27	11.28	4.36
King's Lynn	0:51	5.60	1:32	5.54	Wilton-on-Nse	6.23	3.56	7:04	3.49

Crown copyright reserved All tide times are GMT

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.58 am
Sun sets: 5.31 pm
Moon sets 12.04 pm
Moon rises 3.17 am

London 5.31 pm to 6.56 am
Bristol 5.41 pm to 7.05 am
Edinburgh 5.35 pm to 7.16 am
Manchester 5.36 pm to 7.07 am
Penzance 5.55 pm to 7.15 am

New Moon March 1

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هكذا من الاهرام



ARTS 33-35

Polly Harvey, an English rose more thorn than petal



INFOTECH 36, 37

Will American culture dominate the superhighway?



SPORT 38-44

Paula Thomas: Running at a loss for Britain

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

2

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24 1995

Trafalgar lifts Northern bid to £11 a share

BY ERIC REGULY

NORTHERN Electric predicted yesterday that it would retain its independence after Trafalgar House raised its bid to £11 a share, short of the "knock-out" price the City expected.

At the same time, Trafalgar admitted it would slump into loss during the first half and have disappointing results for the year to end-September after paying compensation to passengers on the QE2, following its disastrous refit.

Trafalgar's new bid is 52p higher than its opening cash offer of £10.48 per share. The £11 price, which expires on March 10, adds another £60 million to the £1.2 billion value of the offer and is final unless a competing bid is launched.

Northern shares fell by 75p to £10.53.

Northern and many investors had expected a bid as high as £12; the shares had traded above £11 on Wednesday. One Northern insider said Northern "would have been dead" if Trafalgar had offered £12.

Northern recommended shareholders to reject the offer.

David Morris, chairman, said: "This offer is woefully inadequate and is destined to fail. In our view, the Tyne Bridge was a bridge too far for Trafalgar House."

Trafalgar still remained confident, noting that £11 represented a premium of more than 40 per cent to the current trading value of the other regional electricity companies and more than 20 per cent to the price of Northern shares in mid-December.

Rodney Leach, a non-executive director of Trafalgar, said the directors considered not raising the bid at all during a late-night planning session on Wednesday. He said: "We raised it because we're slaves to fashion. You're supposed to increase the bid in takeovers."

The City predicts that Trafalgar has a fairly good chance of succeeding even though its bid fell short of expectations. Adam Forsyth, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "It's not an automatic win but I think, at the end of the day, it'll go."

Analysts said that institutions, which own 82 per cent of the equity, will be busy balancing the certainty of the £11 in cash over the benefits of Northern's defence package, which Northern claimed was worth £5.07 a share. It includes a special dividend of £1.50 per share, new preference shares worth £1 per share and a promise that the company's 6.5 per cent holding in the National Grid will be handed directly to shareholders.

The package will boost balance sheet gearing from zero now to 225 per cent in 1996. Mr Forsyth said that institutions will have to judge, for example, what risks the extra gearing will create, such as reduced dividend cover.

Separately, it emerged yesterday that Swiss Bank Corporation, Trafalgar's adviser, had sold all its Northern shares, which were held by the bank's market makers, over the past ten days. At one point, they owned almost 6 million shares, or 5.33 per cent of the company. Some of the sales went through at prices slightly above £11.

A Northern official said £11-plus sales had irked some of its institutional shareholders. He said: "The institutions said 'If Swiss Bank is selling at more than £11 a share, why should we take only £11?'."

Northern said it would discuss the market-maker's sales with the Takeover Panel.

Trafalgar's profit warning comes in the wake of the high costs associated with the disastrous Christmas cruises of the QE2, owned by the company's Cunard division. Last month, Trafalgar said it had put aside £7.5 million to cover expenses such as fare refunds.

Trafalgar said Cunard will show an operating loss in the first half of the year. It said: "This, together with the lower earnings from engineering ... is likely to result in the group producing a half-year loss and disappointing full-year results."

Pennington, page 25

Key pair quit Signet in run-up to talks

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

SIGNET, the jewellery group formerly known as Ratners, has lost two key directors only months before it is due to renegotiate its banking facilities.

Gary O'Brien, finance director for four years, is leaving at the end of next month. Nathan Light, head of Signet's US operations, has also resigned.

The City saw the departures as a setback. One retail analyst said: "To lose a finance director and a strong manager like Nathan at this stage cannot be good news."

Some observers felt that it could trigger a capital reconstruction of the group, which is burdened by £360 million of debt and owes preference shareholders £90 million in dividends.

Julian Treger, the South African financier whose UK Active Value Fund holds 24 per cent of the preference shares, said: "This brings the day of reckoning much closer."

Mr O'Brien is leaving to become chief operating officer of Salisburys Stores. The company is headed by Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield entrepreneur, and was created when he bought the Salisbury luggage and handbag chain from Signet last August.

Mr O'Brien will be succeeded by Walker Boyd, the finance director of the UK jewellery operations.

Analysts believe there was a personality clash between Mr Light and James McAdam, Signet's chairman. Mr Light is also understood to have been interested in buying out the US operations. Although he was on a five-year rolling contract and was paid a £1 million last year, he will receive compensation of £750,000.

Gas in control with £1.24bn

JAMES MORGAN



Cedric Brown, British Gas chief executive, said operating costs had fallen after more than 15,000 employees left the company. But he said a further 15,000 still have to leave

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS achieved a strong recovery in profits to £1.24 billion during the year to end-December, as the company started to see the first fruits of cost-cutting and restructuring.

Profits would have been £144 million higher still, but an exceptionally mild winter reduced gas consumption.

The result marked a sharp turnround from 1993, when the company recorded a £215 million loss before tax, after setting aside £1.65 billion to reorganise its business in preparation for the progressive opening of the household gas market to competition.

In spite of a £678 million fall in sales, to £9.7 billion, British Gas achieved a substantial improvement in underlying profitability. Operating costs fell £466 million as 15,637 employees left the company.

Cedric Brown, chief executive, said 15,000 more employees still have to leave under a plan to shed 25,000 from the core business by April 1996. Most are expected to leave in the current year.

Although rivals now have more than 60 per cent of the market over 2,500 therms, where competition is allowed, supplying and distributing gas in Britain remains at the heart of the company's profitability, generating operating profit of £1.075 billion last year.

But the proportion of profits generated by exploration and production has risen from 16 per cent to 20 per cent, or £296 million, as investments begin to mature. UK marketing activities, including the troubled gas showrooms, made £71 million.

As investment in both distribution and production tailed off, investment fell by £465 million to £1,363 billion.

In spite of the strength of the balance sheet, British Gas is holding the year-end dividend at 8.1p making 14.5p, unchanged on 1993 despite being 3.4 times covered.

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3049.3	(+29.8)
Yield	4.34%	
FT-SE A All share	1503.71	(+10.62)
Nikkei	17830.02	(-276.63)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4013.09	(+40.04)*
S&P Composite	488.60	(+3.53)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5⅝%*	(5⅛%)
Long Bond	101[17]/32*	(101[5]/32)
Yield	7.50%*	(7.53%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6[11]/16%	(6[11]/16%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	102[2]/32	(101[13]/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5930*	(1.5890)
London:		
$	1.5925	(1.5875)
DM	2.3416	(2.3306)
FFr	8.1890	(8.1600)
SFr	1.9899	(1.9814)
Yen	154.13	(153.80)
£ index	87.4	(87.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4700*	(1.4705)
FFr	5.1415*	(5.1387)
SFr	1.2495*	(1.2473)
Yen	96.78*	(97.05)
$ Index	61.4	(61.4)

Tokyo close Yen 97.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May) $16.80 ($16.85)

GOLD

London close $379.15 ($379.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Lucas grounded

The American Defence Department has banned Lucas, the automotive and aerospace group, from all future US defence contracts. The ban follows an admission by Lucas that a subsidiary neglected quality tests and falsified certificates while making a vital gearbox for the American F/A 18 fighter aircraft. Page 29

Double profits

Royal Insurance, the composite insurer, more than doubled pre-tax profits during 1994 thanks to a surge in general insurance around the world. Page 28

Stronger ICI pegs dividend

BY ERIC REGULY

ICI, the global chemicals group, disappointed investors yesterday by leaving its final dividend unchanged even though it reported sharply higher earnings and much lower indebtedness.

The company had given no hint that the 1994 dividend, which remains at 27.5p, might be raised, but shareholders nonetheless were optimistic.

Jeremy Chantry, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson, said: "There was an outside chance of a rise with the balance sheet so incredibly strong."

ICI shares fell by 7p to 715p, after the release of the annual results.

Continued cost-cutting and strong economic growth helped to boost ICI's pre-tax earnings by 84 per cent, to £514 million, while earnings per share rose 90 per cent, to 37.3p. Turnover, at £9.2 billion, was up 9 per cent.

ICI chose not to increase its dividend because it wants to boost its dividend cover from its current level of 1.4 times earnings to two times. Trading profits increased substantially in four of the company's main divisions — paints, materials, industrial chemicals and regional businesses. Industrial chemicals, whose profits increased by £162 million to £265 million, showed the biggest rise.

The fifth, and smallest, division, explosives, was the one loser; its trading profit declined by 12 per cent to £45 million.

Sir Ronald Hampel, the chief executive, said: "The results are clearly unsatisfactory and underline the need for a major restructuring of the business."

ICI called the restructuring of the business — which has 13,000 employees and annual turnover of £786 million — radical. It will cease making nitroglycerine and dissolve its American aerospace business. Mr Chantry said he is lifting his pre-tax earnings forecast for 1995 to about £720 million from £700 million, in spite of the company's warnings that growth in America and Britain will not be as strong this year.



ICI's Charles Miller Smith, Sir Denys Henderson, Sir Ronald Hampel and Allan Spall

Tempus, page 26

Managers say pay cap fits directors

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TWO THIRDS of British managers believe that company directors' earnings should be restricted, a survey of management views on top corporate pay suggested yesterday.

Although management leaders insisted that the results of the snapshot survey were indicative rather than definitive, the findings will further fuel widespread public criticism of top company pay.

The survey by the Institute of Management, which was published as further controversy arose over the pay of senior British Gas officials after its announcement of a £1.25 billion profit, suggests strong dissatisfaction with directors' pay and benefits, including pensions and share options.

The study, carried out among a random sample of 250 of the institute's management membership, had a high response rate, of 51 per cent, and showed that 66 per cent of respondents thought that the total earnings of company directors ought to be restricted. While this figure rose to 70 per cent among managers, 58 per cent of directors were in favour of some form of pay restriction.

Well over half — almost two thirds among directors themselves — thought that an organisation's average earnings should be used as the basis for "determining and, if necessary, capping" executive pay. Leaders of the institute intend to submit the findings of the survey, together with further evidence, to the Greenbury committee on executive pay set up by the Confederation of British Industry at the request of the Prime Minister.

The institute wrote yesterday to the Greenbury committee urging it to take full account of managers' views.

The institute is to make a larger study of its members' opinions on pay, but it claimed yesterday that the sample showed genuine concern about boardroom salaries and a clear desire to restrict them on the grounds of fairness and equity. Overall, 85 per cent of respondents thought that non-executive company directors ought to have fixed-term contracts, with a higher proportion among managers.

Roger Young, Director-General of the institute, said: "The idea of fairness and equity kept on coming through the survey." He added that managers, and especially those who had to carry out boardroom decisions, felt that they had been "wrong-footed and let down" by the row over directors' pay.

Two thirds of directors thought that their pay should be determined by individual performance, with only 6 per cent across the whole sample believing that a company's share price ought to be the principal means of determining boardroom remuneration.

FT

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CBI finds many firms intend to raise prices

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MANUFACTURERS' intentions to increase their prices are rising sharply, according to a survey by the Confederation of British Industry, which also today forecasts higher inflation and interest rates as a direct result of price pressures.

The latest CBI monthly industrial trends survey of more than 1,300 manufacturing companies shows 40 per cent expecting to increase their prices over the next four months, although one in two companies believe their price levels will remain stable. It also reports record exports and strong demand.

Taking into account the 9 per cent who believe their prices will fall, the resulting balance of 31 per cent of companies intending to raise their prices is sharply up on the balance of 22 per cent in the CBI's last monthly survey, in December, although it is broadly in line with the 33 per cent figure in the confederation's not-directly comparable quarterly trends survey last month.

However, it is also markedly higher than price expectations a year ago, when a balance of only 3 per cent of manufacturers intended to put up their prices.

Companies of all sizes expect to raise prices, and the largest increases are expected by those employing between 200 and 499 workers and those making intermediate goods, which face higher raw material costs.

CBI leaders emphasise that it is unclear whether intended price rises would stick, since competitive pressures in home and export markets remain strong.

The survey shows that export orders are running at their highest level since April 1977, while overall demand is also strong, leading manufacturers to expect output to increase at the fastest rate since March 1988.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate economic director, says: "The strength of demand and projected increase in output are very welcome indeed. British manufacturers continue to do well in overseas markets and this should support continued export-led growth over the next few months."

The CBI acknowledges that potential inflationary pressures, including rising raw material costs and the threat of a tightening labour market driving earnings growth upwards, are pushing up its forecasts on inflation and interest rates.

It has notched up its inflation forecast for the end of 1995 from 3.4 to 3.8 per cent, although it expects it to fall back to 3.4 per cent by the end of 1996. The CBI accepts that the outlook for inflation has worsened, and it suggests that base rates will peak at 7.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of this year, stabilising in 1996.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.25	2.08
Austria Sch	17.48	15.98
Belgium Fr	51.23	46.83
Canada $	2.319	2.159
Cyprus Cyp£	0.770	0.715
Denmark Kr	9.85	9.08
Finland Mkk	7.79	7.14
France Fr	8.62	7.97
Germany Dm	2.50	2.29
Greece Dr	391.00	366.00
Hong Kong $	12.91	11.91
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel	5.2659	4.5159
Italy Lira	2675.00	2520.00
Japan Yen	168.50	152.50
Malta	0.612	0.557
Netherlds Gld	2.778	2.549
Norway Kr	10.90	10.10
Portugal Esc	254.00	236.50
S Africa Rd	ret.	5.45
Spain Pta	212.50	198.50
Sweden Kr	12.18	11.38
Switzerland Fr	2.12	1.94
Turkey Lira	refer	63619.0
USA $	1.684	1.554

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Andrew Longhurst is backing his challenge with the offer of a bottle of champagne

Longhurst election challenge angers MPs

BY ROBERT MILLER

MPs from both sides of the House last night attacked the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society for comparing the voting hurdles it has to clear in the proposed £1.8 billion merger with Lloyds Bank and those of MPs standing for election to Parliament.

The C&G said that if the 1986 Building Societies Act had applied at the last general election, John Major would not have been elected an MP, nor would any of his Cabinet, and neither would Tony Blair, the Labour leader, nor his Shadow team.

Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G, said: "I'll offer a bottle of champagne to any MP would can prove to me that the vote which elected him, or her, as an MP would satisfy the investors' voting requirements for C&G to join Lloyds Bank." Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, whose Private Member's Bill to help widows excluded from the C&G payout is due for a second reading in the Lords on Monday, called Mr Longhurst's challenge inappropriate.

He added that Mr Longhurst stood to be granted an options package worth £1.4 million if the Lloyds deal went through. He said: "That money would be enough to employ 40 headteachers, 30 police constables or 50 MPs."

Alistair Darling, Labour's City affairs spokesman, whose personal intervention with backbenchers helped to ensure that Mr French's Bill passed through the Commons unopposed, said: "C&G's comparisons with the parliamentary voting process are completely inappropriate and offbeam. The building society voting requirements are safeguards to ensure that society members think long and hard before embarking on an irrevocable course of action. In any case, MPs don't go round offering voters £500 to vote for them."

Anthony Nelson, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, will today unveil the final version of his review of the 1986 Building Societies Act. He is expected to recommend changes to the present system, which has excluded thousands of society members from a share in bonus payouts when societies merge or are taken over.

Private investment call by Sims

BY MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

THE head of one of Britain's largest construction companies has called on pension funds to invest in the new wave of private finance infrastructure projects.

Neville Sims, chief executive of Tarmac, said yesterday that if the private finance initiative moved forward as planned, there was no doubt it would be "the win-win initiative of the 21st century from which all parties can expect to profit".

Speaking at the National Association of Pension Funds investment conference in Eastbourne, Mr Sims said: "The Government is demonstrably and necessarily committed to private finance. Pension funds and like institutions should finance infrastructure projects because all of us in the private sector must now rise to meet the challenges of the private finance initiative and ensure that the opportunities that have been identified are converted."

Mr Sims said the initiative would spawn a new group of operating businesses with requirements for long-term funding which, inevitably, would benefit from institutional support. "I see the financial institutions as potential providers of equity, of subordinated debt and possibly of the long maturities of the basic project debt," he said.

BUSINESS ROUND-UP

Sharp rise in US jobless figures

THE number of Americans filing initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose sharply last week to the highest level since the start of the year. The Labor Department said new first-time claims for unemployment pay shot up to 349,000 in the week ended February 18, from a revised 347,000 the prior week. It was the highest level since 354,000 in the week ended January 7.

The report was the latest suggesting that the economy is slowing and that it is beginning to show up in the nation's labour market, economists said. "These are noisy numbers and you have to look at that. But this rise can no longer be explained as a turn of the year aberration," said Chris Rude, economist with Swiss Bank Corporation. "I think this is another sign that, indeed, the economy is slowing and labour market conditions are easing," he said. Other economists warned, however, against reading too much into the report.

Seita oversubscribed

SOME 79 per cent of Seita employees signed up for shares in the French tobacco monopoly, the latest privatisation stock, the Economy Ministry said. Edmond Alphandéry, Economy Minister, said: "The offer to Seita employees has met with huge success." statement. Employees were offered the shares at a 20 per cent discount to the Fr129 public offer price, provided they agreed to keep the stock for two to five years. A million small investors applied for shares in Seita, oversubscribing their allotment of the issue by 3.9 times.

Skipton cuts debt fund

SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY lifted profits to £17.4 million before tax, from £10.5 million, in the year to December 31, helped by a decline in provisions for bad and doubtful debts to £23.8 million, from £33.5 million. Net interest receivable and other income declined to £78.56 million, from £80.4 million. The building society said that the number of repossessions was reduced by 23 per cent, while the total number of borrowers in arrears fell by 40 per cent. The solvency ratio rose to 12.17 per cent, from 10.57 per cent.

Chain's smoking ban

DUNKIN DONUTS, the coffee and doughnut shop chain owned by Allied Domecq, said it was imposing a no-smoking policy at its 3,600 outlets around the world. The company said the decision followed "enthusiastic customer feedback" after trials at 60 per cent of its shops. Jack Shafer, company president, said: "We are taking this step because we believe a smoke-free environment is in the best interests of everyone." He said research showed that most customers see smoking as a deterrent to visiting shops.

USAir sells 11 aircraft

USAir Group, the troubled American airline in which British Airways has a near-25 per cent interest, is selling 11 Boeing 737-300 aircraft to General Electric Capital Corp as part of its effort to reduce costs. Terms of the sale were not disclosed. The planes will be delivered to GE Capital starting next month and continuing into November. Seth Schofield, chairman of USAir, said that the sale was part of a plan to cut costs by $1 billion a year, removing the aircraft from the USAir fleet.

Forfaiting holds payout

LONDON FORFAITING COMPANY, the provider of finance for international trade, is maintaining the annual dividend after pre-tax profits fell to £16.05 million in the year to end-December (£21.48 million). The final dividend is held at 6.1p a share, making an unchanged total of 9.3p. Earnings fell to 11.51p a share from 16.15p. The shares, however, rose 6p to 145p. The company said the decline in the value of emerging market bonds and higher interest rates had an adverse impact on the results.

US groups spend more

BUSINESSES plan to raise spending on bigger plants and new equipment this year, the US Commerce Department said yesterday, but not as robustly as last year. Spending to increase production this year is expected to grow 6.6 per cent to $592.9 billion, according to a survey of about 21,000 companies. New investment spending grew 13.7 per cent last year. The survey showed that manufacturing industries plan to raise investment strongly, but other sectors, such as mining and utilities, intend to trim investment modestly.

Yorkshire profits up

YORKSHIRE Building Society, Britain's twelfth largest, today unveils an 18 per increase in profits to £78.9 million but warns that "there seems little sign of recovery in the core business areas" in 1995. In the year to December 31 the building society almost halved its bad debt provisions to £9.9 million and reduced its management expenses from £106.7 million to £99.36 million. Mortgage lending for the year was £819 million while net inflows were £130 million. The society's assets grew by 9.1 per cent to £5.83 billion.

Dow makes its 4,000 debut

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GROWING hope that the US Federal Reserve is near to the end of its monetary tightening powered Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average past 4,000 for the first time yesterday.

In late morning trading in New York, the Dow was up 40.71 points at 4,013.76. The rally boosted British shares, sending the FT-SE 100 index 29.8 points higher to 3,049.3.

The root of this renewed optimism has been the two-day Humphrey-Hawkins testimony to both chambers of Congress by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Fed. On Wednesday, he told the Senate that US growth was slowing. He even mentioned the possibility of cutting interest rates if growth decelerated sufficiently, even if there were still adverse price pressures.

Yesterday, Mr Greenspan testified to the House. In spite of the fact that the dollar had come under pressure after his comments on Wednesday, he said nothing to dispel the impression that US interest rates are close to stabilising. Mr Greenspan was hopeful that the Fed had contained an outbreak of inflationary pressures by raising rates. The Fed had a responsibility to ensure a stable currency, he said. The dollar, however, fell.

The Deutschmark remained strong in spite of the impending strike by German engineering workers and figures showing a 5.3 per cent contraction in M3 money supply in January compared with the fourth quarter. The decline should make the argument for higher German rates weaker.

Although the Bundesbank said this week that price pressures were returning, Helmut Hesse, a Bundesbank council member, said yesterday that the recession had weakened inflation decisively and that the bank may be justified in keeping rates where they are for now.

The strong mark pushed the peseta to a record low, but sterling clawed back some ground to close at DM2.3442 (DM2.3314, Thursday).

SEC files municipal fraud complaint

FROM AP IN WASHINGTON

THE US Securities and Exchange Commission has filed charges of civil fraud against four men, alleging that they took part in a kickback scheme to influence New Jersey's municipal bond business.

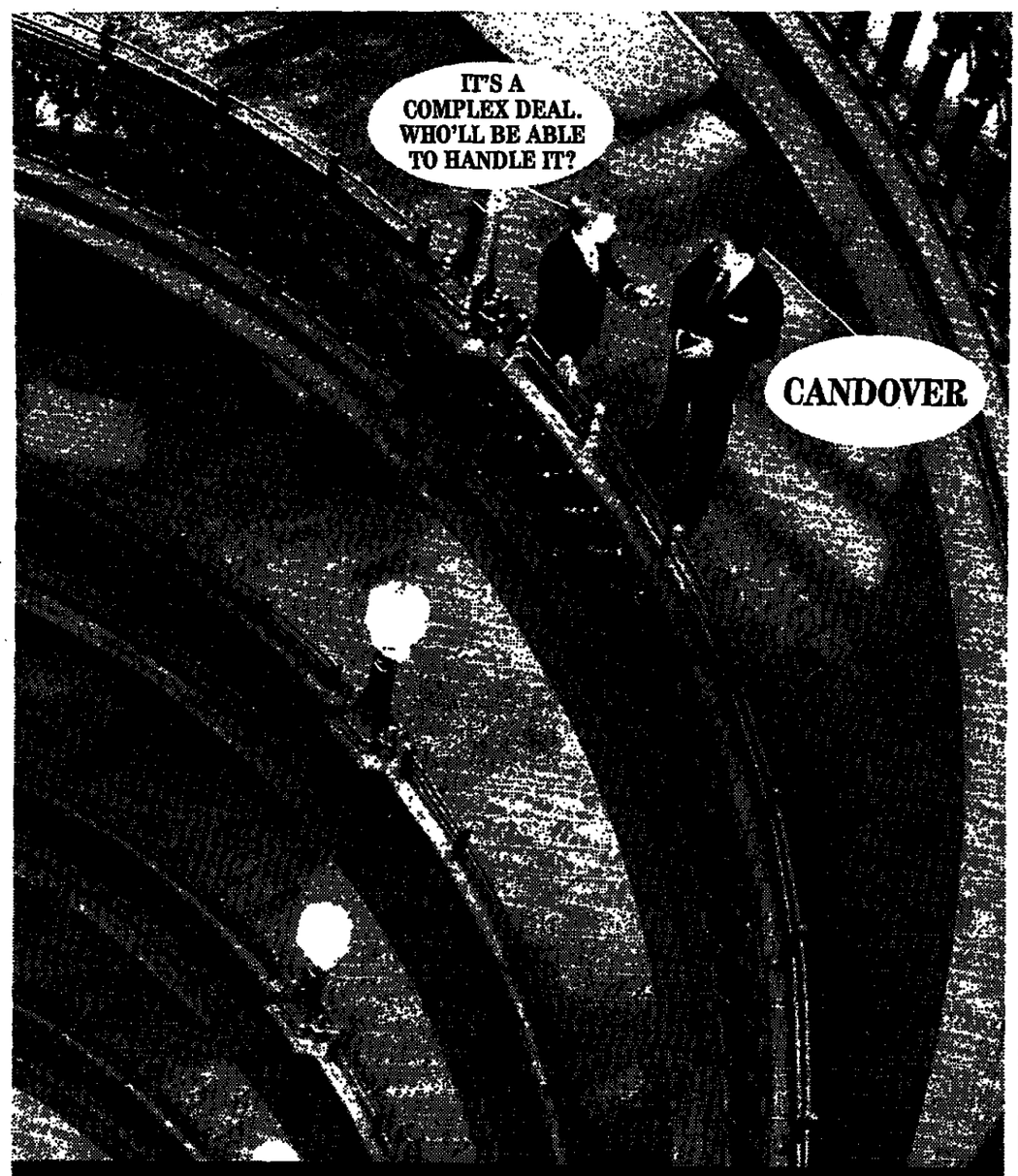
The four named in the case filed in the US District Court in Manhattan, are Nicholas Rudi, former administrator of Camden County, New Jersey; Joseph Salema, the former chief of staff of James Florio, former Governor of New Jersey; Alexander Williams; and George Tuttle, two former executives of the First Fidelity Bank of Newark, New Jersey.

Richard Walker, the SEC's New York regional director, said that all but Mr Rudi have settled civil charges with the SEC and agreed to surrender a total of $348,000 acquired improperly in the New Jersey bond scheme in 1990.

The SEC civil case alleges violations of federal anti-fraud, books and records and municipal securities laws. Also named in the SEC case was Public Capital Advisors Inc., a financial advisory firm formerly known as Consolidated Financial Management Inc. The firm had been owned by Mr Salema and Mr Rudi.

The latest SEC case describes "an elaborate kickback scheme" in which payments were allegedly funneled through First Fidelity to Mr Rudi and Mr Salema to obtain the state's underwriting business, Mr Walker said.

The case is part of an enquiry into improper influence in the municipal bond market.



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The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

Final dividend 1994

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on 13th April, 1995 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1994 of 15.9p per 25p Ordinary Share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 18th May, 1995 the dividend will be paid on 23rd May, 1995.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar:- Lloyds Bank Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3pm on 13th April, 1995.

SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 193 which must be deposited at Lloyds Bank, Registrar's Department, Issues Section, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1000, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL (not later than 13th April, 1995, to receive payment on 23rd May 1995) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75382, Paris Cedex 08.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Miss J. E. Munsiff
Secretary

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
23rd February, 1995

☐ British Gas must mend its damaged image ☐ Shock tactics pay off for power chiefs ☐ Derailing the gravy train

Testing the gasman

☐ BRIAN WILSON, the Shadow Industry Minister, yesterday condemned British Gas for its "dash for cash" and charged that "a company which was, until recently, held in high public esteem is now synonymous with corporate greed and ruthlessness". A clever soundbite is no substitute for a policy. Yet shorn of its political spin, the analysis is half right.

Last year, British Gas launched into a breakneck restructuring. The goal: to prepare for the progressive spread of competition in domestic gas supply. This will begin with a pilot area of half a million homes next April, and spread nationwide from April 1998.

British Gas will retain ownership of the monopoly transmission system, which will be closely regulated in a new subsidiary, TransCo. A second subsidiary, Public Gas Supply, will compete with independent rivals for the business of householders, paying TransCo to deliver the fuel for them.

British Gas has slashed at its flab even before the detailed rules are known. Last year, 10,000 employees, a sixth of the workforce, signed up for redundancy. But the company aims to cut 15,000 more by the end of 1996. Most of them will leave this year. The entire programme is intended to cut the company's UK operating costs by £600 million a year. Action is certainly needed. During 1994, British Gas saw its share of the gas market over 2,500 therms — the business market where competition is already allowed — shrink from 50 to 40 per cent.

In the industrial market over 25,000 therms, where British Gas was first forced to cede market share, it now has only 9 per cent. In the market from 2,500 to 25,000 therms, opened only two years ago, its share had fallen to just 47 per cent by the year end. Independents have even entered the interruptible supply sector — once considered the test of attaining a truly competitive market.

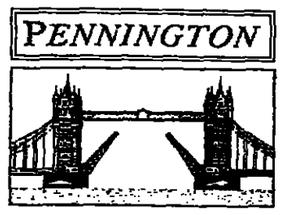
Yet British Gas profits, at £1.25 billion, remain robust. British Gas revenues from its monopoly transmission business will continue to rise in a competitive regime: the total volume of gas sales rose by 8.4 per cent.

Sales by British Gas are a different matter. Independents have promised to cut bills by a tenth. British Gas believes it must achieve savings that will enable it to do the same, or risk losing much of its gas sales business. It must do all in its power to enhance customer satisfaction, to dissuade consumers from taking their business elsewhere.

Yet in its haste, British Gas has alienated its customers. Showroom closures, stretched staff and pay rises for directors have helped push complaints to record levels. This is more dangerous, in terms of both profits and politics, than price competition. During 1995, British Gas should put the customer first, or shareholders should question whether Richard Giordano is the right man to lead the company.

Northern lights dim for Trafalgar

☐ EXPECTATIONS seem to be going awry in the battle for Northern Electric. Disappointment in the City at Trafalgar House's second and final offer was tangible. The tumble in Northern shares, now 4.3 per cent below the cash offer, is big enough to suggest that many think Trafalgar's heart was not



really in it and the bid could well fail. But with that discount, arbitrageurs could do the bidder's work. Trafalgar's own misfortunes have hit the value of its convertible preference shares, so that the cash alternative is higher than the main offer. That is often an ominous sign.

Northern has surely surprised Trafalgar by demonstrating that the management of a sleepy regional utility can run a business for cash as ruthlessly as any international conglomerate. Its programme of cash handouts, worth about half the bid price for a pension fund, has understandably raised eyebrows. Most of all, it has probably queered the pitch for other utilities, which have constantly told their regulators that they could not possibly face the financial markets with the sort of gearing that Northern plans to impose on itself. The markets will probably wear it, given the positive cash flow. The high and progressive dividend rises Northern has promised on the rump holding therefore make Trafalgar's offer look niggardly.

Whatever the outcome, other regional electricity companies will have to follow Northern's lead. That should be good for shareholders in the pre-election twilight but, *vide* British Gas, not so good for customers.

The behaviour of Swiss Bank Corporation, Trafalgar's adviser, will also surely require regulatory changes. SBC's market-makers, as always at arms length from the corporate financiers, built unjustifiably high stakes in electricity companies. And they were selling Northern shares at more than £11 before the new final terms were announced. In a world of integrated investment banks, there is no longer much reason to divorce their market-making arms from the banks' obligations under the Takeover Code. Nor should they be allowed to hide share stakes that other investors must disclose.

The only option is no options

☐ AN avalanche of words on the line now threatens to halt the boardroom gravy train. The Labour Party, which seized on directors pay at utilities as a stick to beat the Government, must be astonished at the response. The CBI, the Institute of Directors, the Myners committee and now the Institute of Management, have queued to query the excesses of their own kind.

No board can claim it was not warned. Sir Adrian Cadbury wagged a finger. Sir Owen Green advised that high pay should not be compounded by options, bonuses, excessive pensions and rolling contracts. But the remuneration consultants, armed with tax-saving schemes and tales of what others were doing, proved too persuasive. The generation of top company directors that took advantage could be the last for a while.

Share options, once thought the most cost-effective and harmless incentive, now look most vulnerable to the new puritanism. Even setters of accounting standards on both sides of the Atlantic have them in their sights. If a company performs only averagely, option holders can easily earn a fortune on the back of profits ploughed back into the business by shareholders. If things go wrong, there is no cost.

More sophisticated option packages impose performance targets that benefit shareholders before options can be cashed. But they are still a one-way bet. The clearer targets are set or thresholds imposed, the easier it will become for the numbers to be used to value, and tax, options at the time they are granted.

As the Myners committee pointed out, option schemes have done little to boost the actual shareholding of executive directors in 20 years. In too many cases they have become just another form of cash. Incentives will always be needed, not least to help able managers build up the capital they forgo by running someone else's business. But the option will surely fade in the next few years in favour of schemes that actually involve directors committing themselves to shares that can go down as well as up.

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



John Jennings hopes in the coming weeks to finalise ways of trimming Royal Dutch/Shell's twin head office costs

Shell reviews £600m HQ costs

BY GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

ROYAL Dutch/Shell, the oil group, is close to deciding on how to save money on its £600 million a year headquarters operations in London and The Hague which employ 5,000 workers.

John Jennings, the chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, said yesterday that a review meeting would start today and run over the weekend. Mr Jennings was hopeful that a conclusion would be reached in March but said it could be several more months before the restructuring took effect.

In London, Shell occupies two enormous concrete blocks, the Upstream and Downstream Buildings, on the South Bank of the Thames, where about 2,500 people work.

Shell revealed last year that it had hired McKinsey, the management consultancy, to review its management structure to improve performance and reduce costs by cutting out layers of bureaucracy. Shell's present complex management structure was devised with McKinsey in the 1950s.

Royal Dutch/Shell yesterday reported record annual profits for 1994 up 36 per cent to £4.07 billion. The total sterling dividend for the year from Shell Transport will rise 12.9 per cent from 24p to 27.1p. Mr Jennings said the rise in the UK dividend was largely to compensate for depreciation of the pound against the Dutch guilder after sterling's exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Shell revealed yesterday that it had shed 11,000 jobs during 1994, largely through divestments, and now employed 106,000 staff. Mr Jennings said: "This trend has not yet passed", but he refused to be drawn on a prediction of job cuts for this year. Shell's recent bout of disposals is now largely complete. In the fourth quarter, Shell raised net income by 145 per cent to £1.65 billion. Over the year, exploration and production profits were £1.54 billion (£2 billion) on a 3 per cent rise in oil production and a 1 per cent rise in gas production.

Profits over the year from the manufacturing and marketing business, which includes petrol sales, rose 18 per cent to £2.01 billion on volume sales of oil products up 5 per cent. Chemicals converted a £409 million loss to a £340 million profit over the year.

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Drug firms going through turmoil, says SB chief

BY SARAH BAGNALL

THE pharmaceutical industry is going through "unprecedented turmoil", creating an environment in which earnings growth can be achieved only through volume gain, and not by margin gain, Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, the British drugs company, said yesterday.

Mr Leschly's remarks came as he announced an 8 per cent rise in sales from continuing operations, to £6.1 billion, in the year to December 31. The increase was entirely due to volume growth as lower prices knocked 1 per cent off sales. "As you can see, it's a whole new world," he said.

Profits before tax and exceptional items rose by 9 per cent, to £1.27 billion, exceeding analyst forecasts of between £1.23 billion and £1.26 billion. Pre-exceptional trading profits grew by 15 per cent, to £1.2 billion. The A shares rose by 18p, to 497p.

Excluding exchange-rate effects, sales rose by 10 per cent and trading profits by 5 per cent.

Sales were affected by last May's expiry of the US patent of Tagamet, the company's key ulcer treatment. Sales fell by more than a quarter, to £484 million, but the decline was more than offset by a 74 per cent jump in sales of new drugs, to £810 million. Sales of Seroxat/Paxil, the anti-depressant, achieved the biggest advance — rising by 124 per cent, to £333 million — while sales of Havrix, the group's hepatitis A vaccine, grew by 72 per cent to £72 million.

The buoyant new drug sales helped the pharmaceutical division to lift sales by 5 per cent, to £3.6 billion. Excluding Tagamet, sales rose by 11 per cent.

Consumer healthcare sales rose by 10 per cent, to £1.4 billion, and trading profits advanced by 15 per cent, to £199 million. These results excluded Sterling Healthcare, acquired last October for £1.9 billion.

Mr Leschly said: "Sterling Healthcare will really influence our consumer healthcare division in years to come." He said that intergration of Sterling would enable margins, currently 13.8 per cent, to rise much closer to 20 per cent over the next three to five years.

Mr Leschly said that the clinical laboratories division last year suffered its toughest year ever. Trading profits fell 2 per cent, to £99 million, on sales up 4 per cent, to £834 million. The sales growth was due to a 14 per cent rise in volume, partly offset by price cuts of 10 per cent.

The 1994 profits were hit by a £580 million restructuring charge, announced last year. The company expects the cost of the charge to be paid back over the next three and half years.

A final quarterly dividend of 3.9p, due on April 18, makes a year's total of 12.9p, up from 10.9p last time. The dividend is from pre-exceptional earnings of 32.3p a share, up 11 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

City relieved that Black is to buy back Telegraph

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE CITY reacted with some surprise but little sentimentality to the news that The Telegraph is to be reabsorbed into Conrad Black's worldwide newspaper empire after just three years as a public company.

On Wednesday night, Hollinger, Mr Black's Canadian-based master company which owns 58 per cent of The Telegraph, said that it would bid for the whole company through its quoted subsidiary, American Publishing. Terms were not disclosed.

Yesterday analysts greeted the news with thinly-disguised relief. One media analyst said that he would not be sorry to see the company leave the London stock market. Another said Mr Black's relationship with the City had become increasingly strained and there was little mutual trust.

The hostility erupted last summer after Hollinger sold 12.5 million shares in The Telegraph at 587p only a month before slashing the cover price of the flagship newspaper.



Black: tense relationship

Stephen Grabiner, managing director of The Telegraph, first heard about Hollinger's proposals on Wednesday morning. He insisted that they would have little impact on the way the business was run. No discussions were taking place on the price of any buy-back although he expected talks to start in two to three weeks.

Analysts believe Hollinger will have to offer at least 450p to buy out the remaining shares. The group already has an option to increase its stake by a further 5 per cent at 450p and would therefore have to offer at least this amount to minority shareholders if it exercised the option.

Mr Grabiner dismissed suggestions that the buy-back heralded the end of the newspaper price wars. "We have no plans for a change in the price of *The Daily Telegraph* until *The Times* changes its price," he said.

The Telegraph also announced a 16 per cent drop in pre-tax profits, down to £45 million from £53.7 million in the year to December 31. Operating profits from the British newspapers more than halved to £20.1 million (£42.9 million). An unchanged final dividend of 7.5p maintains the total payout at 13p. Shareholders will be paid on May 4.

The Telegraph's share price jumped 54p to 434p.

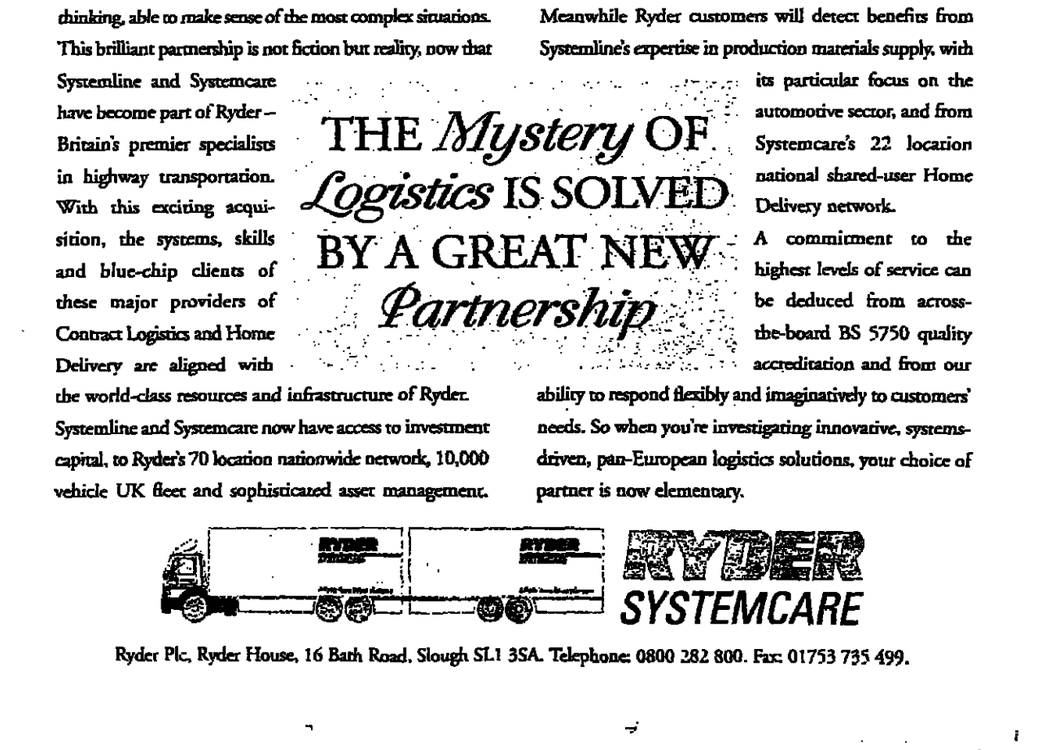
Chemring to buy Ronstan

CHEMRING, the protective clothing manufacturer, is buying Ronstan, an Australian manufacturer of yacht rigging and deck hardware products, for A$10.2 million (£4.8 million) in cash.

The group said the business will complement its civil marine product range. It added that the acquisition will not dilute earnings in the current year.

Ronstan had sales of A$14.8 million in the year to June 30, 1994, and reported a pre-tax profit of A$81,000. The company has net assets of A$4.4 million.

Philip Billington, Chemring chairman, said: "Ronstan's established distribution network in North America and Europe strengthens our presence in the leisure marine market. Chemring's annual sales in Australia and New Zealand are now approximately £12 million, indicating our increasing commitment to the Australasian market, and our total annual marine sales worldwide are over £25 million."



A unique blend of experience, resourcefulness and clear thinking, able to make sense of the most complex situations. This brilliant partnership is not fiction but reality, now that Systemline and Systemcare have become part of Ryder – Britain's premier specialists in highway transportation. With this exciting acquisition, the systems, skills and blue-chip clients of these major providers of Contract Logistics and Home Delivery are aligned with the world-class resources and infrastructure of Ryder. Systemline and Systemcare now have access to investment capital, to Ryder's 70 location nationwide network, 10,000 vehicle UK fleet and sophisticated asset management.

THE *Mystery* OF *Logistics* IS SOLVED BY A GREAT NEW *Partnership*

These skills are supported by a dynamic growth strategy. Meanwhile Ryder customers will detect benefits from Systemline's expertise in production materials supply, with its particular focus on the automotive sector, and from Systemcare's 22 location national shared-user Home Delivery network.

A commitment to the highest levels of service can be deduced from across-the-board BS 5750 quality accreditation and from our ability to respond flexibly and imaginatively to customers' needs. So when you're investigating innovative, systems-driven, pan-European logistics solutions, your choice of partner is now elementary.

RYDER SYSTEMCARE

Ryder Plc, Ryder House, 16 Bath Road, Slough SL1 3SA. Telephone: 0800 282 800. Fax: 01753 735 499.

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

SBC offloads Northern Electric shares at the top

BUY at the bottom and sell at the top is the motto of Swiss Bank Corporation's crack market-making team. Yesterday SBC was totting up the profits of its foray into shares of **Northern Electric** after announcing it had sold its 3 per cent stake at a price believed to have been about £11.12 a share.

News of the move came as **Trafalgar House** increased its bid for Northern Electric to £11 a share, an increase of 52p on its previous price, and valuing Northern at £1.23 billion. The increased offer was less than City speculators had anticipated and the price of Northern tumbled 75p to £10.53, with the the odds on the company retaining its independence shortening.

Swiss Bank is acting as an adviser to Trafalgar. The shares it held were built up as part of the day-to-day trading activities of its market-making arm.

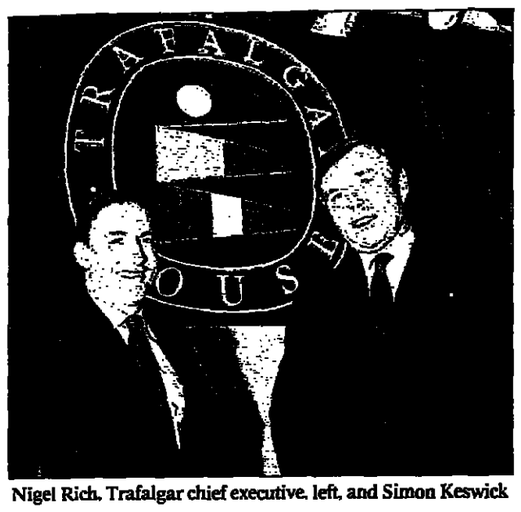
At the same time SBC's market-makers were bidding for shares in **Yorkshire Electricity**, where earlier this week it reduced its holding from 8 per cent to 6 per cent. The Yorkshire share price fell 9p to 820p, mainly in reaction to the disappointing new terms for Northern from Trafalgar. There has been intense speculation in recent weeks that Yorkshire will soon get a bid from the likes of **Hanson**, ¾p down at 241¾p.

Trafalgar finished the session 1p easier at 64½p, after effectively issuing a profits warning with its increased terms. The company, headed by Simon Keswick, told brokers it would produce a loss in the first half. Profits for the full year would be disappointing.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market bounced back as institutional investors decided that the market had been oversold. Inspired by yet another record-breaking run in early trading in New York, which carried the Dow Jones back above the 4,000 level, share prices in London raced ahead. The *FT-SE 100 index* closed at its best of the day with a rise of 29.8 points to 3,049.3 as turnover soared to 701 million shares.

Lucas Industries reacted badly to the news that a US court has virtually prevented the company for bidding for future defence contracts. The shares fell 7p to 165p as brokers began assessing the impact on group profits. Last month Lucas admitted to having made false claims about inspections of equipment supplied to the US military. Hoare Govett, the broker, was last night urging clients to switch out of Lucas and into **T&N**, 1p easier at 160p.

Signet, the former Ratners jewellery chain, fell 1¾p to 163¾p after the departure of finance director Gary O'Brien.



Nigel Rich, Trafalgar chief executive, left, and Simon Keswick

Fisons, a takeover favourite, stood out with a rise of 4p to 124p. Turnover was high, with almost 4.5 million shares changing hands. Market-makers are normally only prepared to make a price in parcels of 50,000 shares at a time. There is no talk of a bid, but brokers say a company reconstruction may be announced.

The Telegraph, publisher of *The Daily and Sunday Telegraph*, jumped 54p to 434p in response to news that Conrad Black was taking the company private again. Hollinger, his holding company, already owns 59 per cent of The Telegraph and intends to bid for the rest of the shares.

Mr Black upset the City last year by selling shares at the top of the market (see chart) before announcing plans to cut the cover price of the *The Daily Telegraph* and thereby escalating the newspaper price war. The move resulted in a sharp fall in the price of Telegraph shares.

The decision to peg its final dividend left **British Gas** 5p lower at 299p. Full-year figures revealed historic net profits of £927 million after taking into account one-off charges and a change in accounting policies. Last year the group reported a loss of £356 million because of the cost of its huge restructuring programme.

A sharp turnround in the fortunes of its chemicals business enabled **Shell** to more than double historic net profits in the final quarter to £1.61 billion. It hoists the total for the year to £3.9 billion compared with £3.2 billion. But the shares finished 2p lower at 724p.

There was a positive response to full-year figures from **SmithKline Beecham** with the price climbing 16p to 495p. Pre-tax profits were at the top end of the range, growing 9 per cent to £1.2 billion, supported by a 10 per cent increase in sales despite a drop in sales of Tagamet, its anti-ulcer treatment, of almost 30 per cent.

The decision to hold the dividend marred an otherwise positive performance from **ICI** and left the shares 6p lower at 716p. Pre-tax profits last year soared 84 per cent to £514 million. Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, was encouraged about prospects for the current year.

Royal Insurance responded to full-year figures at the top end of expectations with a rise in the share price of 10p to 282p. Pre-tax profits were more than doubled at £401 million following a sharp drop in underwriting losses.

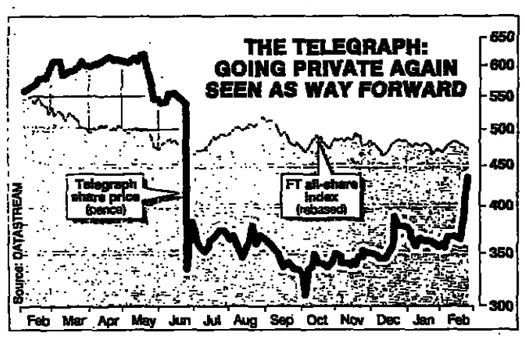
The performance from Royal pointed the spotlight on the rest of the insurance composites which have been in demand because of their attractive yields. **Commercial Union** climbed 11p to 523p, **Guardian Royal Exchange**, 5p to 179p, **General Accident**, 15p to 536p and **Sun Alliance**, 9p to 315p.

Shares in **GET Group**, the electrical stockist and distributor, made a healthy market debut, advancing to 128p — a 3p premium.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts drew encouragement from a better performance by the pound and gains on other international bond markets. The satisfactory outcome to this week's bond auction, and an absence of any further economic information, prompted investors to test the market following recent losses.

In the futures pit the March series of the long gilt climbed £13/16 to £102 7/32. Among conventional issues, Treasury 6¾ per cent 2008 added £11/32 to £88 3/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares held their gains at midday after breaking through 4,000 as investors grew bolder. Analysts said markets continued to reflect the belief that interest rate hikes were near an end and that no recession was in sight. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 40.04 at 4,013.09.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ... 4013.09 (+40.04)
S&P Composite ... 488.60 (+3.53)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ... 17830.02 (-276.63)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ... 7676.41 (+67.14)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index ... 411.46 (+3.00)

Sydney:
AO ... 1893.5 (+13.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX ... 2118.24 (+32.52)

Singapore:
Straits ... 2085.84 (+32.52)

Brussels:
General ... 7012.59 (+15.78)

Paris:
CAC-40 ... 1827.01 (+22.64)

Zurich:
SKA Gen ... 630.20 (+5.60)

London:

FT 30	2314.3 (+13.0)
FT 100	3049.3 (+29.8)
FT-SE Mid 250	3401.0 (+0.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1311.31 (+6.29)
FT A All-Share	1503.71 (+10.62)
FT Non Financials	1625.57 (+9.25)
FT Gold Mines	*190.5 (+1.1)*
FT Fixed Interest	109.82 (+0.24)
FT Govt Secs	91.40 (-0.46)
Bargains	22168
SEAQ Volume	617.0m
USM (Datastrm)	147.03 (+0.18)
US$	1.5920 (+0.0035)
German Mark	2.3442 (+0.0128)
Exchange Index	87.4 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2439
£:SDR	1.0617
RPI	146.0 Jan (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Bath Press (10)	15	...
GET Group (125)	128	...
Inv Tst of Inv Tsts	*86*	...
Inv Tst of Inv Tsts Wts	57	...
Lazard Bir	48½	-1¾
Lazard Bir Wts	*28¼*	*-1*
MCIT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCIT S Inc (35)	36	...
Matheson Lids IT (100)	79	...
Pentex Oil	72	-8
Photobition (150)	156	...
Wessex Trust	11	- ¼
Woodchester Uts	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BTP n/p (225)	19	+5
Bath Press n/p (10)	3	...
Cadbury Schws n/p	*81*	*+5*
Euro Colour n/p (57)	19	+1
Nat Home Loans n/p (110)	¼	...
Shorco n/p (90)	2	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Abbey National	446p (+9p)
Barclays	614p (-17p)
Lloyds	577p (+15p)
Nat West	504p (-14p)
Electrocomponents	504p (+11p)
BAT	426p (-12p)
Amersham	838p (+29p)
Commercial Union	523p (+15p)
General Accident	538p (+15p)
Lloyds Abbey	351p (+9p)
Royal	283p (+11p)
Sun Alliance	315p (-9p)
SmithKline	497p (-18p)
Ferguson Int	320p (-12p)
Boots	483p (+9p)
Reed Int	745p (-14p)
Reuters	447p (+9p)
Govett	293p (+9p)

FALLS:

Tilbury Douglas	463p (-10p)
Takeda Chem	*730p (-17p)*
BICC	329p (-12p)
Sentry Farm	88p (-8p)
British Biotech	*441p (-23p)*

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Medicine chest

THE logic of last year's $8 billion spending spree by SmithKline Beecham is beginning to emerge. Drugs companies need critical mass to survive in the harsh new trading environment. No longer are doctors in charge of buying decisions. The power has shifted to the managed healthcare organisations and pharmacy benefit managers.

As bulk buyers, they are demanding sizeable rebates and discounts, leaving drug manufacturers no hope of pushing through price increases. Margins are being eroded and drug companies have only volume and efficiency gains to rely on for earnings growth.

SB's continuing operations lifted sales 8 per cent in 1994, but this reflected 9 per cent volume growth and a 1 per cent drop in prices.

The deals that SB completed last year left it with gearing of more than 300 per cent. Disposals have cut this to 99 per cent — still above the level SB historically has said that it feels comfortable with. However, with the group's planned research and development spend, restructuring, capital expenditure and investment outlays for 1995, gearing is not likely to fall much in the current year.

The company suffered last year from the expiry of the US patent of Tagamet, its anti-ulcer drug. The treatment's sales fell more than a quarter, to £484 million, and a further decline will be seen at the half year. However, the group's new products more than made up for the drop and future buoyant sales growth is expected. It will be some time for the full effects of the acquisitions and the benefits of the £580 million restructuring to feed through, but, overall, SB's long-term prospects are undeniably appealing.

Shell

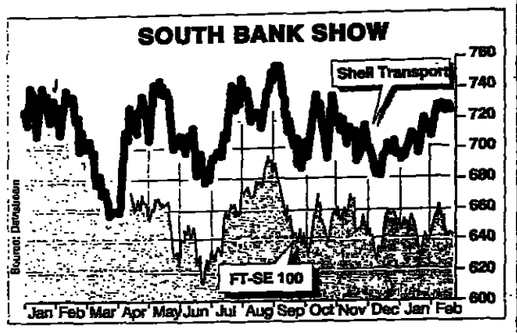
IT IS a tribute to the diversity of Royal Dutch/Shell that it could make record net income of £4 billion last year in spite of carrying a staggering £600 million of headquarters costs each year, falling oil prices and lower refining margins.

Shell hopes to address the former problem this year. However, wielding the axe in the South Bank and The Hague is likely to test the group's management machine to its limits. Some Black Country pragmatism from John Jennings, the chairman of Shell Transport, is needed.

Getting over the latter problem may be more difficult. A timely surge in the chemicals cycle has helped Shell, as indeed it came to the aid of BP, its rival, but chemicals will not grow at the same rate this year. Shell is hardly out on a limb in expecting oil prices to stick around the $16 a barrel mark for the rest of this year, but shareholders should be impressed by a projection shown to analysts yesterday of steadily rising oil and gas volumes until the millenium.

Combined with a continued attack on costs in refining, marketing and chemicals, and well controlled capital expenditure, this should underpin Shell's earnings progression for its income dependent shareholders.

Brokers' forecasts of £4.3 billion before special items for the current year remained intact after yesterday's results.



Royal Ins

FUND managers evidently do not believe that Royal's profits are here to stay. At 282p, its shares sell at around asset value, yield 5.3 per cent in dividend and are rated on an almost identical 5.35 times earnings.

This only makes sense if the company is soon to descend the big dipper of the insurance cycle. True, some UK premium rates are falling. Household rates are about 3 per cent down and motor more than 5 per cent. But these look to be a competitive reaction to the steep rises of recent years rather than presaging a collapse into slump-level underwriting losses.

Remember also that Royal has far fewer black holes that in the early 1990s. Estate agencies still make a loss, and America little profit. But the former is fairly stable and the latter is improving. UK life assurance, while hardly a sparkling market, delivered a stable 14 per cent of pre-tax profit while the Canadian disaster has been contained.

Expansion, centred on multinational and Asian general insurance, is likely to be cautious and organic this time, which is also a relief. In terms both of risk and potential, the shares look a much better bet than underwriting at Lloyd's.

ICI

THERE may have been a reshuffle at the top table of ICI, with Charles Miller Smith coming in as chief executive and Sir Ronald Hampel moving upstairs, but the job remains the same. The group has come far since the depths of the recession, as witnessed by the 84 per cent rise in profits during 1994. But the group is still only earning an 8 per cent return on capital, which shows how far the group has to go to achieve its potential.

That potential is nowhere more obvious than in the strength of the group's financial position. A series of disposals and acquisitions, coupled with a strengthening cashflow left ICI virtually ungeared at the end of 1994. ICI is already exploiting its financial resources by building ambitious new plants for high growth chemicals such as PTA in countries like Pakistan. But it can step up the pace of this organic development without straining itself.

In the meantime ICI must continue to pull out of businesses where it has little global presence or inadequate scale. The reorganisation of the explosives division is the latest example of its determination to do this.

The City jibbed at ICI's refusal to increase its dividend, but the group would have been reckless to do so given that it is only 1.4 times covered, and the pace of its recovery will slow this year as petro-chemical prices reach the peak of the cycle.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	1047-1046	May	1070-1069
May	1040-1038	Jul	1078-1075
Jul	1044-1043	Sep	1087-1086
Sep	1053-1052	Dec	1099-1097
Dec	1054-1052		
Mar	1063-1062	Volume: 7806	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	3062-3060	Nov	2913-2903
May	3005-3000	Jan	2880-2860
Jul	2960-2950	Mar	2870-2850
Sep	2928-2925	Volume: 5101	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	347.4-44.4
Spot: 404.0		Mar	344.4-40.4
May	400.8-00.2	May	344.3-38.4
Aug	383.9-83.3	Aug	342.3-35.4
Oct	352.9-51.4	Volume: 2501	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 22

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	84.22	122.17	120.94
(+/-)	+1.20	+1.45	+0.89
Eng/Wales:	84.22	122.78	120.45
(+/-)	+1.20	+2.21	+0.90
(%)	-6.0	-7.0	-1.0
Scotland:	unq	120.70	123.53
(+/-)	..	-0.65	+0.42
(%)	..	+19.0	+62.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.10	(n/c)
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.90	-0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	16.80	(n/c)
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.55	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.40	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 172 (n/c)	O: 176 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	149 (+1)	150 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Mar	149 (+1)	150 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Apr	150 (+1)	152 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	107 (n/c)	109 (n/c)
Naphtha	170 (n/c)	172 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GN1 Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	145.75-46.00	Jun	147.50-47.75
Apr	147.25-47.50	Jul	148.75-49.25
May	147.50-47.75	Vol: 17237	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	16.90-16.91	Jul	16.64-16.65
May	16.77-16.79	Aug	16.59-16.62
Jun	16.71-16.72	Vol: 21075	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	108.45	Mar	101.65
May	110.00	May	103.30
Jul	111.15	Sep	97.00
Sep	98.40	Nov	99.10
Nov	99.40	Jan	100.80
Volume: 338		Volume: 37	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	289.0	312.5
May	330.0	325.0
Jun	unq	unq
	Volume: 264	

RUBBER (No'1 RSS Ctr p/kg)

Apr ... 113.25-113.75

BIFFEX (GN1 Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 95	2050	2030	2050
Apr 95	2045	2025	2040
Jul 95	1785	1775	1778
Oct 95	1780	1775	1777
Vol: 205 lots		Open Interest: 3932	
		Index 2023 +4	

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2857.0-2858.0	3mths 2851.0-2852.0	Vol: 1719675
Lead ($/tonne)	583.50-584.00	602.00-603.00	174125
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1022.5-1023.0	1044.5-1046.0	382025
Tin ($/tonne)	5360.0-5370.0	5450.0-5460.0	23745
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1843.5-1844.5	1881.0-1882.0	966825
Nickel ($/tonne)	8200.0-8205.0	8350.0-8355.0	61926

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 95 ...	3028.0	3063.0	3027.0	3052.0	13497
Previous open interest: 67989	Jun 95 ...	3036.0	3061.5	3036.0	3060.0	283
FT-SE 250	Mar 95 ...	3400.0	3400.0	3400.0	3405.0	50
Previous open interest: 4003	Jun 95 ...	3420.0	3420.0	3420.0	3425.0	50
Three Month Sterling	Mar 95 ...	93.14	93.14	93.08	93.12	15250
Previous open interest: 453699	*Jun 95 ...*	*92.46*	*92.51*	*92.44*	*92.48*	*39550*
	Sep 95 ...	91.98	92.08	91.96	92.04	33119
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 95 ...				93.76	0
Previous open interest: 2598	Jun 95 ...				93.50	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 95 ...	94.85	94.87	94.84	94.86	27372
Previous open interest: 795603	Jun 95 ...	94.46	94.53	94.46	94.52	60410
Long Gilt	Mar 95 ...	101-27	102-12	101-24	102-07	94533
Previous open interest: 94704	Jun 95 ...	102-01	102-19	102-00	102-15	13836
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95 ...	110.19	110.48	110 19	110.42	2449
	Jun 95 ...	109.37	109.59	109.30	109.54	5397
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 95 ...	90.68	91.08	90.67	91.06	169473
Previous open interest: 221365	Jun 95 ...	90.18	90.56	90.17	90.55	13363
Three month ECU	Mar 95 ...	93.72	93.77	93.70	93.76	2445
Previous open interest: 25435	Jun 95 ...	93.20	93.28	93.19	93.25	2932
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 95 ...	96.03	96.05	96.01	96.05	2061
Previous open interest: 48537	Jun 95 ...	95.64	95.75	95.64	95.71	3865
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95 ...	98.70	99.05	98.56	98.73	47211
Previous open interest: 53226	Jun 95 ...	97.80	98.00	97.60	97.68	2114

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6% · Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7½ Low 6⅝ Week fixed: 6¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅝; 3 mth 6⅝ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅝; 3 mth: 6⅝ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6¼	—
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6¼	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛

Overnight: open 6¼, close 6 .

Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a.	6⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7-6⅞	7⅛-7⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.98	n/a.	6.10	6.24	6.68
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-6⅞	7⅛-7⅛

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Jan 31, 1995 Agreed rates Feb 26, 1995 to Mar 25, 1995 Scheme III: 7.875%. Reference rate Dec 31, 1994 to Jan 31, 1995 Scheme IV & V: 6.624%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6-5½	6⅛-5⅝	6⅛-5⅛	6⅛-6⅛	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	5-4½	5-4⅝	5⅛-5	5⅛-5⅛	5¼-4¼
French Franc:	5⅞-5½	5⅞-5½	5⅞-5⅝	6⅛-6⅛	6-5
Swiss Franc:	3⅛-3¼	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3¼	4¼-4	4¼-3¼
Yen:	2⅛-2	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-1⅛

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $379.20-379.60 Close: $378.90-379.40 High: $379.60-380.10
Low: $378.45-378.95 AM: $379.00 PM: $379.50

Krugerrand: $379.00-381.00 (£239.00-241.00)

Platinum: $417.00 (£262.25) Silver: $4.83 (£3.035) Palladium: $157.00 (£98.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6226-2.6322	2.6226-2.6260	¼-¼pr	1¼-¼pr
Brussels	48.22-48.36	48.22-48.32	5-1pr	16-10pr
Copenhagen	9.2560-9.2810	9.2560-9.2700	¼-¼pr	2¼-1¼pr
Dublin	1.0022-1.0082	1.0055-1.0062	8-8pr	15-10pr
Frankfurt	2.3399-2.3474	2.3399-2.3430	¼-¼pr	1-¾pr
Lisbon	242.41-243.55	242.55-243.19	44-74dis	180-229dis
Madrid	204.95-205.98	205.68-205.98	24-38dis	98-120dis
Milan	2566.50-2585.90	2581.50-2584.90	4-6dis	16-19dis
Montreal	2.2199-2.2258	2.2179-2.2210	0.21-0.30dis	0.48-0.61dis
New York	1.5892-1.5962	1.5920-1.5930	0.07-0.04pr	0.22-0.18pr
Oslo	10.3010-10.3390	10.3060-10.3220	1¾-¼pr	4¼-2¼pr
Paris	8.1730-8.1990	8.1820-8.1960	¼-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr
Stockholm	11.5490-11.6030	11.5490-11.5740	1-1¼ds	3¼-4¼ds
Tokyo	153.81-154.62	153.99-154.26	¼-¼pr	1¼-1¾pr
Vienna	16.47-16.54	16.47-16.51	2¼-1¼pr	7¼-5¼pr
Zurich	1.9884-1.9966	1.9884-1.9913	¼-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3568-1.3577
Austria	10.35-10.36
Belgium (Com)	30.28-30.29
Canada	1.3931-1.3956
Denmark	5.8125-5.8158
France	5.1350-5.1400
Germany	1.4713-1.4718
Hong Kong	7.7310-7.7320
Ireland	1.5845-1.5860
Italy	1618.50-1619.50
Japan	96.74-96.79
Malaysia	2.5535-2.5538
Netherlands	1.6497-1.6502
Norway	6.4748-6.4783
Portugal	152.43-152.53
Singapore	1.4525-1.4535
Spain	128.79-128.84
Sweden	7.2673-7.2738
Switzerland	1.2510-1.2520

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5927-1.5953
Australia dollar	2.1601-2.1623
Bahrain dinar	0.593-0.605
Brazil real	1.3442-1.3483
Cyprus pound	0.72-0.73
Finland markka	7.1575-7.2735
Greece drachma	367.25-374.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.3163-12.3217
India rupee	49.37-50.23
Kuwait dinar KD	0.468-0.478
Malaysia ringgit	4.0680-4.0697
Mexico peso	n/a
New Zealand dollar	2.5149-2.5175
Pakistan rupee	48.55 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8975-6.0235
Singapore dollar	2.3140-2.3163
S Africa rand (fin)	6.1155-6.1513
S Africa rand (com)	5.7333-5.7434
U A E dirham	5.775-5.899

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	1,400	Legal & Gn	5,300
ASDA Gp	10,000	Lloyds Bk	3,300
Abbey Natl	2,000	MEPC	310
Allied Dom	*3,400*	*Marks Spr*	*5,300*
Argyll Gp	3,100	NatWest Bk	6,600
Arjo Wiggn	1,600	Nat Power	1,100
BA Foods	358	Nth West W	389
BAA	*1,600*	P & O	2,600
BAT Inds	7,100	Pearson	1,300
BOC	1,900	PowerGen	1,000
BP	6,700	Prudential	5,100
BTR	5,700	*RMC*	*272*
BT	9,000	RTZ	2,200
Bk of Scot	624	Rank Org	7,600
Barclays	4,100	Reckitt Col	284
Bass	1,200	Redland	1,200
Blue Circle	2,500	Reed Intl	1,600
Boots	2,500	Rentokil	2,300
Bowater	1,200	Reuters	5,600
Brit Aero	1,900	Rolls Royce	5,300
Brit Airways	2,300	Ryl Ins	5,400
Brit Gas	39,000	Ryl Bk Scot	2,500
Brit Steel	8,700	Sainsbury	2,800
Burmah Cast	273	Schroders	54
Cable Wire	1,900	Scot & New	276
Cadbury	3,100	Scot Power	2,800
Caradon	1,200	Sears	8,200
Carlton Cms	386	Svrn Trent	547
Cm Union	2,100	Shell Trans	9,400
Courtaulds	685	Siebe	2,500
De La Rue	262	SmKl Bch	4,400
Eastern Elec	1,200	Smith Nph	3,600
Enterpr Oil	1,400	Sthrn Elec	1,000
Forte	8,000	Std Chartd	4,100
GKN	*1,900*	*Sun Alliance*	*2,600*
GRE	1,700	TI Gp	1,300
GUS	266	TSB	4,900
Gen Acc	804	Tesco	4,800
Gen Elec	6,500	Thames W	308
Glaxo	3,300	Thrn EMI	666
Granada	896	Tomkins	3,800
Grand Met	3,700	Unilever	1,400
Guinness	4,200	Utd Biscs	1,100
HSBC	3,000	Vodafone	12,000
Hanson	19,000	Warburg (SG)	166
ICI	7,000	Wellcome	1,300
Inchcape	1,700	Whitbread	410
Kingfisher	1,300	Wilms Hld	2,300
Ladbroke	1,300	Wolseley	1,500
Land Secs	2,200	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

	Feb 23 midday	Feb 22 close
AMP Inc	75½	75½
AMR Corp	61½	59⅝
AT & T	51½	51
Abbott Labs	35	34⅝
Advanced Micro	30½	30
Aetna Life	53½	53½
Ahmanson (H F)	17⅝	17⅝
Air Prod & Chem	48⅝	48⅝
Albertson's	30½	30½
Alcan Aluminm	25½	25⅝
Alco Standard	67⅜	67½
Allied Signal	38⅝	38
Alum Co of Am	62½	61
Amax Gold Inc	5½	5½
Amerada Hess	48½	47⅝
Amer Brands	37⅞	37
Amer El Power	34⅝	34½
Amer Express	34	33½
Amer Genl Corp	31½	31½
Amer Home Pr	71½	71½
Amer Intl	104½	102
Amer Stores	25	24½
Amertech	42⅝	42⅞
Amoco	58½	58½
Anheuser-Busch	56½	56½
Apple Computer	41½	40⅝
Archer Daniels	18⅝	19⅛
Armco	6½	6½
Armstrng Wrld	45½	45½
Asarco	38½	38
Ashland Oil	32½	32½
Atl RichFld	109	108½
Auto Data Pro	62⅛	61½
Avery Dennison	38	37⅞
Avon Products	57½	57⅝
Baker Hughes	19½	19⅜
Baltin Gas & El	24½	24⅝
Banc One	29⅝	28½
BankAmerica	47½	47⅜
Bank of NY	32½	32
Bankers Tr NY	63⅜	63⅞
Barrett Banks	44⅝	44⅜
Bausch & Lomb	33½	33½
Baxter Intl	31½	31½
Becn Dickinsn	51½	51½
Bell Atlantic	53⅝	53½
BellSouth	59½	58⅝
Black & Decker	26½	25⅝
Block (H&R)	36⅝	36½
Boeing	46½	46¼
Boise Cascade	31½	31½
Borden Inc	12½	12½
Bristol Myrs Sq	61¼	61¼
Browning Ferris	31⅞	31½
Brunswick	20½	19½
Burlington Nthn	59½	59½
CBS	62⅝	62½
CNA Financial	72½	72
CPC Intl	54½	53⅝
CSX	77½	76½
Campbell Soup	45⅝	45½
Can Pacific	14½	14
Cpnl Cities ABC	88½	86⅝
Carolina Pwr	27⅝	27½
Caterpillar	53⅝	52½
Central & SW	24½	24½
Champion Intl	42⅝	42⅝
Chase Manhat	35½	34½
Chemical Bk	40½	39⅝
Chevron Corp	46⅝	47⅛
Chrysler	46	45⅝
Chubb Corp	78½	78½
Cigna Corp	75½	75½
Cincorp	64⅞	63⅞
Clorox	60½	60
Coastal Corp	28⅝	28½
Coca Cola	54½	53⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	63½	62
Columbia Gas	35½	36
Compaq Comp	35½	34⅝
Comp Ass Int	57⅝	55⅞
Conagra	33½	33½
Conrail	56½	56⅛
Cons Edison	*28⅜*	*28*
Cons Nat Gas	36	36⅛
Cooper Inds	38½	38½
Corning Inc	32½	31½
Crown Cork	43⅝	42
Dana Corp	24½	23⅝
Dayton Hudson	74	73½
Deere	77½	78
Delta Air Lines	57½	55½
Deluxe Corp	27⅝	27½
Detroit Edison	29½	29½
Digital Equip	34½	34¼
Dillard Dept St	28⅜	27½
Disney (Walt)	*53⅝*	*53*
Dominion Res	38½	38½
Donelley (R R)	33½	34
Dover Corp	60½	60½
Dow Chemical	64½	63½
Dow Jones	35½	35¾
Dresser	20½	20½
Duke Power

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Accounting for mountains

WHAT is it about accountants and mountains? Five years ago, Neville Shulman, so-called "accountant to the stars", set out to climb Mont Blanc for charity. He raised £55,000 and was so hooked that he went on to climb Africa's two highest mountains, 19,340ft Mount Kilimanjaro and 17,058ft Mount Kenya, back to back, over Christmas, 1991. And all this by someone who had previously never climbed anything higher than a ladder. His African adventures have now found their way into print — *On Top Of Africa*, all royalties from which are being donated to charity. Back on the ground, Shulman has just been made a director of the soon to be revamped Shepperton Studios near Chertsey, Surrey.

Bungie running

BROKERS seeking a change from jumping out of windows are invited to run along the ground instead, and all in a good cause. Today at the Liverpool Street entrance of the Broadgate Centre, City teams are taking part in a bungie run in a warm-up for Comic Relief Day on March 17. Teams from UBS, Lehman Brothers, BZW and Johnson Fry have already chalked their hands for today's bungie run (which is just like bungie jumping, but horizontal) but more teams are needed. A £25 entry "fee" per team, please.



Dressing down

IF YOU see colleagues at their desks today in their down and out clothes, they are (possibly) taking part in "Dressing Down Day", a charity event in aid of Save the Children's Children in Cities appeal. Employees from James Capel, Royal Bank of Canada, the International Petroleum Exchange and American Express Bank, among others, have paid for the privilege of coming to work in their casuals. But there are some firms that absolutely withheld permission. Boo!

Spelling it out

AND more spell-check names: Sir Roland Hampel — Rondo Hamper; Eddie George — Eddies Geophysics; Sir Paul Girolami — Paucity Gigolo; Richard Branson — Rich Bravos; Richard Giordano — Rich Girding; Andrew Longhurst — Anger Longhorn.

Fire and water

BRUCE FARMER, managing director of Morgan Crucible, must be thinking the gods are against him. In September, 1994, the group's speciality chemicals factory at Vireux, northern France, which was insured, was all but destroyed by fire. Now the same factory, which is still insured, has been ravaged by floods. A spokesperson says: "Yes, we do have cover for theft, but trust we won't have cause to claim on it."

MORE collective nouns: A bore of solicitors. A sight of ophthalmologists. A venality of MPs.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Service has improved most visibly among supermarkets in the retailing sector where loyalty cards and home delivery are replacing price wars

Service takes over from price as new retail battleground

Customer service desks, baby changing facilities and crèches have moved up to the front line. **Susan Gilchrist** reports

The battleground in retailing used to be price. Many retailers believed that cynical, recession-weary customers just wanted the best deal going and were prepared to shop around to get it.

It was a good theory. The trouble was that it never quite worked in practice. If a retailer gained from a particular price reduction, the competition simply matched it. Any advantage was lost.

So retailers have started to hunt around for new ways to differentiate themselves and the battleground has shifted towards service. Suddenly the leading chains are promising not just value for money but shorter queues, home delivery, special in-store events, loyalty cards and a host of similar offers. The message to rivals is "Anything you can do, I can do better."

Patrick Moylan, a principal with Kurt Salmon Associates, the management consultants, believes service is a better way for retailers to differentiate themselves from their rivals than price. "Service is capable of doing more than price ever can," he says. "Any price advantage is shortlived, but you can make a real difference by offering service levels that your competitors can't match."

Retailers have always talked about customer service, but now they are taking action. The most visible activity is in the food retailing sector where the major supermarket chains, after two years of price wars, are now trying to outdo each other in the standards of service they provide. Coffee shops, dry cleaners and post offices have been established features of out-of-town superstores for some time — after all, they generate money — but now non-profit services such as crèches, baby-changing facilities and customer service desks are becoming *de rigueur*.

Last November, J Sainsbury and Tesco both launched initiatives promising customers shorter queues. Tesco's "One in Front" campaign went as far as to pledge that no more than one customer would be kept waiting at a checkout queue at any one time.

Terry Leahy, Tesco's deputy managing director, says the idea came from customer research. "It wasn't targeted against any specific operator. It was intended to make the shopping trip more competitive with what else was out there."

He says customer reaction to the scheme has been positive. "It has entered the customers' vocabulary, which means it is having an effect." Assessing the financial impact is more difficult. Although the campaign is costly to run, Mr Leahy believes it was a contributory factor of the group's strong trading over Christmas. As a result, it has now become a permanent feature in Tesco stores.

The group has a host of other initiatives up its sleeve. "Offering better service is an easier way to differentiate ourselves and a more defendable advantage," says Mr Leahy. "Cutting price alone is a zero-sum game."

Schemes such as "One in Front" inevitably involve changes to the way stores are staffed as Mr Moylan explains. "In the past, stores have failed to match staff numbers with customer demand. Customers are increasingly shopping at lunchtimes and weekends, yet most of the staff are working a full day. The result is that the staff are under-occupied for much of the day and have gone off to lunch just when the customers are there."

Scheduling staff has always been important, but it has risen up the agenda now that Sunday trading and extended hours have become a permanent feature. Store opening hours used to equate with one person's job, but now that shops are open for at least ten hours a day, seven days a week, it is no longer that simple.

One way of tackling this is to use more part-time staff who are scheduled to work only at the peak periods. Many retailers now have part-timers who come in between 10am and 2pm while another batch work from noon to 4pm. "The great advantage for the employers," says Mr Moylan, "is that these part-time employees don't need a lunch hour — and they don't meet the National Insurance threshold."

However, there are disadvantages to employing a large proportion of part-timers. They are often untrained and less motivated than their full-time colleagues and their product knowledge is inferior. Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda, aims to reduce not increase the number of part-time employees in the business, believing that ultimately they are more costly.

The W H Smith retail chain has found another way to transform the service in its stores. Last year, layers of store management were taken out and more sales-led roles introduced. The positions of deputy and department manager have gone, and the role of customer service manager introduced.

Laurence James, retail sales director, says the structure was too hierarchical and the standard of service to customers too low. "We wanted to get more people serving customers on the shop floor rather than doing administrative tasks behind the scenes." One benefit was lower costs as some 600 managers were taken out of the system.

Nevertheless, the overall objective, he says, is not to cut costs but to change the perception of the chain through better service. "Our new structure can help us to do that," he says. All the new customer service managers have been sent on training courses and workshops to instil in them a more service-led culture.

It is not just about being nice to customers, says Mr James. "Ten years ago, many retailers went through a sheep-dipping exercise of going on a service programme where they were taught how to smile, be friendly and count change properly. But service nowadays goes much deeper than that." Mr James accepts that the full benefits of the restructuring will take time to come through, but believes that the investment will prove worthwhile.

More immediately quantifiable are the benefits from the additional services W H Smith has introduced. One of its biggest success stories has been its "Bookfinder" computer system, which lists every book in print and can guarantee 48-hour delivery of any book it stocks at its central warehouse.

The number of customers now ordering books has doubled since the service was introduced last year. "That is a lot of extra business," says Mr James. The chain now plans to extend the scheme to other product categories such as videos and CDs. Crucially, it is a service that few of its competitors, who have inferior systems, can replicate.

Mr Moylan agrees that enhanced service can reap substantial rewards. "It can reduce costs but more importantly it should increase sales. How many times have you walked out of a shop because they couldn't service you? And do you go back? It may not just be a lost sale, it may be a lost customer."

Power shopper with an eye for a bargain

Eric Reguly assesses Clive Vlotman's risk in buying 71 electrical outlets

Clive Vlotman, the South African businessman who is buying 71 of the 130 Homepower stores owned by Yorkshire Electricity and East Midlands Electricity, appears to be taking an enormous risk. Electrical retailing has been a catastrophe in recent years. It was described as a "mayhem market" by Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman of Thorn EMI, which recently announced the closure of its Rumbelows chain.

Few of the major electrical retailers are carrying their weight. Southern Electric, for example, said in December that its Powerhouse Retail division is losing more than £5 million a year. The electricity industry is thought to have lost about £250 million on retailing since 1990, when the downturn began.

The fall from grace was the result of the recession and, more important, the trend to out-of-town shopping. The small, high street shops, with their limited range of goods and expensive overheads, turned into echo chambers. Homepower's high street shops were among them. A Yorkshire spokesman said: "These were stores where people went in only to pay their electrical bills; they weren't buying a thing." So what does Mr Vlotman know that no one else knows? Nothing really. He said: "We see today's level as the normal level." But there is one big advantage. PowerStore (Trading) Limited, the Vlotman-controlled company that is making the purchase for about £7 million, was allowed the cherry pick. He is leaving 59 non-performing shops with Yorkshire and East Midlands, which has the responsibility of closing them and putting 500 employees out of work.

Each of the 71 Homepower stores he is buying is making operating profits. He expects them to report pre-tax earnings, before depreciation and non-recurring costs, of about £3 million this year. Mr Vlotman hopes to boost their profitability by changing their product mix. His Homepower outlets, 46 of them out-of-town "superstores," have enough space to sell non-traditional items such as mobile phones and branded computers. He will also put their 1,300 employees on an incentive programme. Acquisitions are the other part of Mr Vlotman's strategy. He will spread overheads over more stores. "We can accommodate a group about double our size," he said, implying a prospective expansion to 150 to 200 outlets.

There are certainly enough candidates. Southern Electric is one that would love to get out. Mr Vlotman will not comment on any talks he has held with Southern about buying its 36 per cent interest in the Powerhouse chain. He also brings considerable experience to the game. Born in Cape Town 44 years ago, he has spent most of his career in managerial positions in the retail industry. He was group merchandise manager of Morkels, a large South African electrical goods and furniture chain, before he and his family came to England in 1986. His next five years were spent at Dixons Group, where his positions included marketing director of Currys Superstores and white goods marketing manager. In 1991, he was hired to run the retailing arm of London Electricity and bought its 16 loss-making PowerStores two years later for £7 million, the same price he is paying for the 71 Homepower outlets.



Vlotman: the pick

Mr Vlotman refuses to discuss the source of his wealth. It appears, however, that he has more than a little spending money. Retailing is not his main business.

A year ago, through Harakas, his main holding company, he bought a motor care service business with turnover of about £60 million, operating car repair schemes for insurance companies. He also has a sales promotion company that, among other things, got Cadbury to sponsor a Wet, Wet, Wet concert last summer.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Domestic economy the cause of concern for the pound

From Mr Nick Parsons

Sir, Mr Anatole Kaletsky argues concisely and elegantly ("Economic View," February 16) that, "the rise in inflation reported yesterday was entirely a statistical artefact" and suggests that changes in annual inflation rates are caused more by what happened a year ago than what happens today.

But in arguing also that exports are soaring whilst retail sales are weakening somewhat, he makes the error of looking at the annual percentage changes of a three-month average and presents his charts in this form.

Following his own logic, we should look at more contemporaneous measures of sales and exports. Far from soaring, export growth is actually steady on a three-month basis whilst retail sales have plunged dramatically.

The pound has been sold not merely because of politics but because the market perceives a dramatic slowing of the domestic economy in sectors which directly affect the vast majority of UK voters. The steadily growing export sector is voteless. Mortgage payers, shoppers and homeowners are still enfranchised.

Political worries, Sir, are directly related to an economic policy which appears based on making the weak parts of the UK economy even weaker. In these circumstances, it is little surprise that the pound is falling and it can be expected to fall further.

Yours faithfully,
NICK PARSONS,
Head of Treasury Advisory Group,
Cottons Centre,
Cottons Lane, SE1.

Sum assured in 1899 unchanged by 1995

From Dr S. J. A. Rogers

Sir, A few months after my father was born in 1899, my grandmother started an insurance policy with the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society in his name. This became fully paid up in 1935 with a value of £5 15 shillings. My grandmother started her own policy in 1916 with an amount assured of £4 4 shillings. Following my father's recent death, we have sought to encash both policies. The sum paid out on my father's is the decimal equivalent of the fully paid up value in 1935: £5.75; my grandmother's added an extra £1.55 in the intervening 79 years.

I know not what the ravages of inflation have been since 1935, or indeed from 1899: what I do know is that the payments of the premiums weekly must have been a real sacrifice when my grandmother was widowed in 1904 and had three children to bring up. These polices were intended to pay for one's burial. They were not a good buy. Together, these two policies produced less than 1 per cent of what it cost to bury my father this year. I hope your predecessor did not recommend them in 1899 as a means of saving.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. A. ROGERS,
26 Barrack Lane,
The Park, Nottingham.

Offer real car value

From Mr Michael Mulloy

Sir, Kevin Eason reported that the motor industry was suffering a lack of private purchasers for their products (February 8). He attributed this to fear of rising interest rates on mortgage payments.

I submit that that is only part of the reason. The volume manufacturers have courted the fleet market and so we, who buy our own cars, have sought recognition and lower depreciation elsewhere. Now we are realising just how durable our purchases are and what poor value a new car represents.

What American would even contemplate paying over $20,000 for an Escort AND a further $600 for its delivery? Who is tempted by Nicole and her Papa, street lamps that contort into hearts or Sinatra singing "Something Stupid" when buying a car? Only a fool.

If the trade wants us to buy its products, they must sell the benefits and offer real, rather than comparative, value for money. Why doesn't one of them try saying "Its reliable, fully equipped, goes like a rocket and doesn't cost a bomb".

Yours faithfully
MICHAEL MULLOY,
Coxhill House,
West Hougham, Dover

Share options at Seeboard

From the Chairman, Seeboard

Sir, In *The Times* of February 13, under the headline "Electricity chiefs get £72m in share deals", your reporter stated that a study had shown that "senior directors at Seeboard, one of the smallest regional electricity companies, had options valued at £7.7m". This report is a serious misrepresentation of the true facts. The total value of share options actually covers some 200 managers and staff, and not simply the company's executive directors. Of the options outstanding at March, 1994, only approximately one fifth related to executive directors, averaging just over 100,000 shares each.

At Seeboard, we believe in the value of share ownership for all employees. Our staff have taken up options over some nine million shares under a savings related share option scheme and, in addition, we have made further opportunities available to staff to buy shares through a "matching offer" scheme.

I should also emphasise that all matters relating to share options are dealt with by the company's remuneration committee, which consists entirely of non-executive directors. I am myself a non-executive, and as such take no part in share option schemes.

Yours faithfully,
SIR KEITH STUART,
Chairman,
Seeboard plc,
Forest Gate,
Brighton Road,
Crawley, West Sussex.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

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Royal Insurance profit soars to record £401m

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Insurance, the composite insurer, yesterday announced record profits of £401 million for 1994 — more than double the previous year's result of £151 million.

The profit for the year to December 31 was at the top end of market expectations while the final dividend of 8p matched City forecasts. The shares rose 2p to 274p.

Total premium income fell from £5.1 billion to £4.8 billion and investment income dropped from £511 million to £481 million. Richard Gamble, chief executive, said: "The achievement of a record profit is a welcome start to 1995."

The sharp improvement in pre-tax profits reflected a £236 million advance in worldwide general insurance profits to £412 million. At the group underwriting level, the insurer failed to return to the black, although losses were cut from £364 million to £91 million.

Mr Gamble said the UK general insurance operations achieved an outstanding performance with a £224 million improvement in the profit to £321 million. Lower claims frequency and more favourable weather conditions aided the recovery and the insurer made an UK underwriting profit of £115 million, compared with a £122 million loss last time.

All the insurer's major lines made underwriting profits, while domestic mortgage indemnity losses fell to £63 million, liability losses fell to £40 million and reinsurance losses to £19 million.

UK life profits rose £2 million to £54 million and Mr Gamble said appropriate provisions had been made to cover any possible compensation payable to pension holders as a result of the Securities and Investment Board's proposals. He said: "Royal had only a very small share of the personal pensions market."

In the UK, the blot on Royal's copybook was the estate agency chain which lost £21 million, up £5 million. This loss, made against a background of no recovery in the residential housing market, was due to branch closures and refurbishment costs.

In the US, profits fell from £28 million to £6 million, reflecting reduced general insurance and life profits. The general result suffered from increased weather-related losses, and profits dropped from £15 million to £9 million. The US life operations broke even compared with £15 million profit last time.

Mr Gamble said: "In the recent past, our US result has underperformed industry averages. It is now beginning to show some improvement."

The final dividend, payable on May 5, makes a total of 12p, up from 7.5p. The dividend is being paid out of earnings of 52.7p a share, up from 23p.

ADRIAN BROOKS



Richard Gamble, chief executive, said the figures were a welcome start to 1995

Consumer credit group sees size of loans increase

BY MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

PROVIDENT FINANCIAL, the consumer credit group that specialises in weekly collected loans, says the size of its average loans is rising and more customers are repaying on time.

In the year to December 31, the company increased taxable profits to £81.1 million from £62.5 million on turnover up to £445.3 million from £399.85 million. Strong revenue and profits growth was accompanied by reduced central costs due to a simplified group structure.

In the home collected credit division, profits advanced 28 per cent to £74.6 million. Credit issued rose 10 per cent, compared with 7 per cent in 1993, as a result of a 4.5 per cent increase in the number of "good" customers and a small increase in the size of the average loan.

Loan quality has improved, with collections up 10 per cent and the bad-debt charge rising to £31.1 million from £29.7 million, an increase of 4.7 per cent. Overheads were contained in spite of the growth in revenues, with further cost savings expected as the next stage of rationalisation gets underway.

Pre-tax profits of the insurance division increased by £300,000 to £11.1 million, with contrasting performances by the underwriting and broking companies. Underwriting profits increased to £12.9 million from £11.9 million. Written premiums rose to £165.4 million from £139.4 million and the number of motor policyholders climbed to 800,000 from 618,000.

Losses of £700,000 at Colonnade Insurance Brokers reflected development costs of the new telephone broking operation, Colonnade Direct, established in February 1994. The high street branch network has been reduced to 97 branches from a peak of 122 and a provision of £1.1 million has been made for further restructuring.

With earnings of 40.64p a share, rising from 31.43p, there is a final dividend of 14p a share (11.25p) making a total of 20.5p (16p).

O'Reilly to seek bigger Argus stake

BY OUR CITY STAFF

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, the media company based in Dublin and whose chairman is Tony O'Reilly, proposes to increase its shareholding in South Africa's Argus Newspapers from 34.98 per cent to 60 per cent. The company is offering investors 13 rand a share for up to 70 per cent of the outstanding equity, implying a maximum investment of R270 million (£54 million).

Shareholders may elect to sell all their shares to Independent Newspapers, which will place any shares acquired over 60 per cent of the issued equity to selected black institutions. These institutions will be offered a maximum of 20 per cent.

The moves comes a year after Independent acquired an initial 31 per cent of Argus from JCI and Anglo American. This stake was subsequently increased to 34.98 per cent through market purchases. The value of Independent's holding in Argus will rise to more than R300 million after its proposed buying and the placing with institutions.

Independent said that it had no intention of delisting Argus shares from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, and that it would ensure that the spread of shareholders required by the exchange is maintained.

AEA to shed 400 workers

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FOUR hundred workers are to lose their jobs at AEA Technology as preparations for privatisation gather pace within the commercial arm of United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

Most of the reductions, from a workforce of 4,100 spread across six sites nationwide, will fall upon those in support functions, leaving the core of scientists unscathed, the group said.

The streamlining has been initiated by Sir Anthony Cleaver, former chief of IBM UK, who has been brought in to oversee the sale. Sir Anthony is campaigning for a flotation this autumn, which could raise around £250 million for the Treasury, rather than a break-up or trade sale.

AEA Technology, which concentrates on providing technical assistance to the nuclear and process plant industries, leases its sites from the AEA Government Division. This rump, which has around 2,000 staff, and liabilities of £3-£5 billion for restoration of its contaminated nuclear sites, is to remain in the public sector.

The Government is expected to give an indication of its preferred method of sale next month, when the Bill to enable the sale of the business will receive its second reading.

BRITISH GAS PLC
1994 ANNUAL RESULTS

Chairman's Statement:

Results

British Gas had a challenging year in 1994. The current cost operating profit from continuing operations for the year, before exceptional charges, was £1 063 million for 1994 compared with £1 196 million for 1993. The profit for the financial year before exceptional charges was £600 million compared with £649 million for 1993.

Our financial performance was affected by a number of significant factors. The weather in the UK during 1994 was significantly warmer than the average over the past 50 years, which affected our profit materially. The weather benefit in the first nine months of the year was sharply reversed in the fourth quarter resulting in a reduction in operating profit for the year of £135 million compared with 1993.

In the UK gas business, we continued to lose more market share in the industrial and commercial markets for gas, principally as a result of regulatory restraints on *British Gas's ability to compete in those markets. There were* no price increases in the domestic gas market during the year and therefore, in real terms, prices continued to fall.

Net interest costs fell sharply as a result of the reduction in net borrowings from £4 449 million at 31 December 1993 to £2 013 million, reflecting the disposal of Consumers Gas and Bow Valley, coupled with tight control over expenditure. Historical cost gearing fell from 37% to 21%. Total capital expenditure for 1994 was £1 363 million, compared with £1 828 million for 1993.

We have decided to make some additional exceptional provisions amounting to £195 million which will be charged to 1994's earnings. They relate primarily to the need for *additional funds* to clean contaminated gas manufacturing sites in the UK and the cost of vacating properties in the London area as we move most of our employees to lower cost sites elsewhere.

There were also a number of accounting policy changes (detailed in the results).

Taking into account the factors in 1994 referred to above, and recognising that the major savings from our restructuring programme will begin in 1995, the financial performance for 1994 is satisfactory.

Business Highlights

Our restructuring programme for the UK Gas Business is moving at a fast pace. The major overhaul of all of our business systems and practices supported by new software, the relocation and consolidation of our newly formed business units, the transfer and retraining of many of our employees and a host of other initiatives are all under way. The scale and complexity of this undertaking are immense. In 1994, almost 10 000 of our employees chose voluntary redundancy which substantially exceeded our expectations at this stage.

British Gas is facing declining market share in the upper tariff market, and we can expect intense competition in the domestic market in the next two years. Meanwhile, we continue to face tough regulation. To succeed we must become more efficient. We are re-engineering our activities to drive out costs and at the same time provide the best level of service to our customers.

Our Exploration & Production division has had a good year and past investments are now beginning to bear fruit. A rigorous cost reduction programme will bring benefits in the future. We had a particularly encouraging year in terms of international exploration success. Our North Morecambe field came on stream in 1994 along with the first full year of production from the Everest and Lomond fields. The Miskar field in Tunisia, our largest international development, is due to come into production this year. Operating profit from this division continues to grow as a percentage of British Gas's total underlying *operating profit (excluding exceptionals and discontinued* activities). By the end of 1994, E & P's contribution had risen to 28%.

Highlights from our Global and Power Generation operations include increasing our stake in Natural Gas Clearinghouse in the US to 39%, the start of construction of a large power station in Malaysia by Genting Sanyen Power, the disposal of our stake in Consumers Gas, and our involvement in many infrastructure projects in South America.

Regulatory Developments

The consultative process about pricing proposals for TransCo was completed during the year and, while the price formula is tough, we are getting on with the task of delivering an acceptable rate of return to shareholders while maintaining a safe and viable pipeline system. We welcome Ofgas's removal, albeit temporarily, of the *requirement for us to publish price schedules in the firm* contract market and now look forward to the early removal of other constraints in this market.

The Government's intention to go forward with legislation enabling the introduction of competition in the domestic gas market was announced in the Queen's speech in November. We believe that the Government will enshrine a number of principles in the legislation to ensure that obligations will be equally shared by all competitors, and that appropriate safeguards are adopted to protect both customers and shareholders. We fully support legislation based on these principles and hope for its speedy enactment.

Outlook

We are committed to carrying out the major restructuring of the UK Gas Business and to achieve annual cost reductions in excess of £600 million a year. These savings will begin to impact from 1995 onwards and will provide us with stable earnings and cash flow from this important part of our business. Improvements in profits and cash flow from our Exploration & Production business should then enable us to meet our dividend aspirations. The exploitation of our skills downstream and the development of opportunities will begin to build the platform for the longer term.

Dividend

The Board has decided to maintain the dividend for the year at 14.5p (1993 14.5p) and accordingly is recommending a final dividend of 8.1p (1993 8.1p).

RV Giordano

RICHARD V GIORDANO CHAIRMAN.
23 FEBRUARY 1995

THE RESULTS AT A GLANCE

	Year ended 31 December			
	Current cost £m		Historical cost £m	
	1994	1993 (as restated i)	1994	1993 (as restated i)
Turnover	9 698	10 376	9 698	10 376
Operating costs excluding exceptional charges	(8 516)	(9 018)	(8 135)	(8 601)
Restructuring costs	(105)	(1 650)	(105)	(1 650)
Environmental costs	(90)	(33)	(90)	(33)
Total operating costs	(8 711)	(10 701)	(8 330)	(10 284)
Operating profit/(loss) (ii)	987	(325)	1 368	92
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	918	(569)	1 245	(215)
Profit/(loss) for the financial period	410	(534)	737	(180)
Earnings/(loss) per ordinary share - basic	9.5p	(12.3)p	17.0p	(4.2)p
- adjusted (iii)	13.9p	15.1p	21.4p	23.2p
Interim dividend per ordinary share	6.4p	6.4p	6.4p	6.4p
Proposed final dividend per ordinary share	8.1p	8.1p	8.1p	8.1p
Total dividend per ordinary share	14.5p	14.5p	14.5p	14.5p

i) Three accounting policy changes, in respect of the replacement of meters, capitalisation of interest and service contract income, together with minor changes in valuation method and a revision of certain asset lives have been incorporated into these accounts. The impact of the accounting policy changes increased historical cost earnings per ordinary share by 1.8p in 1994 and by 2.4p in 1993. The impact upon current cost earnings per ordinary share is immaterial. The impact of the accounting method change in respect of a review of asset lives has been to reduce historical cost earnings per ordinary share by 0.3p and increase current cost earnings per ordinary share by 0.7p. There is no impact upon 1993 earnings.

ii) Operating profit/(loss) includes results in respect of discontinued operations.

iii) Adjusted earnings per ordinary share have been calculated excluding the exceptional restructuring and environmental charges (£195 million, 1993 £1 683 million) and the associated taxation impact (£5 million, 1993 £500 million).

Copies of the 1994 Fourth Quarter and Full Year Results are available from:
Head of Investor Relations, British Gas plc, Rivermill House,
152 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3JL. Telephone 0171 611 2065.

British Gas
THE LEADING INTERNATIONAL GAS COMPANY

THE TIMES
Win a £6,000 PEP



A Personal Equity Plan (PEP) is a way of investing money out of the reach of the tax man and *The Times*, in association with TSB Bank, is offering you the chance to win a £6,000 PEP.

Answer the questions below, collect four of the six PEP tokens which are appearing each day, and you could win an investment in your choice of three TSB unit trusts:

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These three funds, which were launched in November 1994, have all ranked in the top quartile of their particular unit trust sectors over the past three months.*

Because of the regulations governing PEPs, winners will receive a holding in the unit trust of their choice. Provided they are eligible, they will be able to convert this to a PEP at no cost either immediately or, if they have already taken out a PEP this year, after the end of the current financial year.

A PEP investment is an excellent home for long-term savings, with all income and capital growth exempt from both income tax and capital gains tax. Readers can obtain full details of TSB PEPs at their nearest TSB Bank branch.

How to enter

Collect four of the six tokens which are appearing this week and send them on a postcard with your answers plus the tie-breaker by March 1, 1995 to: *The Times* Win a PEP Competition, Week 1, 16 Whitefriars Street, EC4B 2NG. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by the closing date.

* Source: Micropal offer-to-offer, income not reinvested.

THE TIMES
PEP
Token 6
TSB

The questions

1) What is the current slogan of TSB Bank's commercials and advertisements?
2) Which Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced the concept of the Personal Equity Plan?

Tie-breaker: in no more than 15 words, explain why you would like to win a £6,000 TSB Personal Equity Plan.

AT&T and Quadral out of Bull stake bid

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

AT&T, the American telecommunications group, and Quadral, its French partner, made a last-minute withdrawal yesterday from negotiations to take a stake in Bull, the French state-owned computer maker.

The companies blamed the French Government for refusing to open up the telecommunications market before its planned deregulation in 1988.

In a joint statement on the last day of the second round of the Government's invitation to accept bids from groups interested in taking at least 10 per cent of loss-making Bull, the companies said: "This prerequisite, essential for the implementation of the strategy proposed by AT&T and Quadral, is not compatible with the timetable set by the authorities for the privatisation of Bull."

Quadral is the leading partner with 51 per cent of a joint venture with AT&T. They were offering to purchase 40 per cent of Bull.

AT&T previously said its interest in Bull hinged on its ability to obtain a telecommunications licence to operate in the basic telecommunications services market in France. The market is dominated by France Telecom, a 17 per cent shareholder in Bull.

The sale of stakes in Bull, valued at about $1.2 billion, is part of a vast privatisation programme unveiled by the French Government in 1993.

NEC of Japan, which has a 4.4 per cent stake in Bull, has said it is willing to raise that to possibly more than 10 per cent. Other candidates reported to have put in offers include Motorola, Sequent of America, IPC of Singapore, a consortium led by Dassault Electronique, and IBM, which already owns around 2 per cent.

The French Government said it wanted to reduce its ownership to under 50 per cent when it first solicited offers for Bull in December. Including France Telecom's stake, its holding is about 93 per cent. Government officials had no comment on the AT&T-Quadral announcement.



The F/A-18: Lucas hoped to win a contract to supply electric power controls for the US Navy's new generation of fighters

Lucas to fight US ban over defence contracts

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

LUCAS Industries, the automotive and aerospace group, says it will vigorously contest the US Defence Department's decision to ban it from all future American defence contracts.

The group plans to appeal to the Department within 30 days in the hope of lifting the ban. A Lucas spokesman described the action, which took the group by surprise, as unsustainable, unsupportable and unjustifiable.

The Defence Department has imposed the ban after Lucas's admission that its Lucas Western subsidiary neglected quality tests and falsified certificates while manufacturing a vital gearbox for the F/A-18 fighter aircraft. Last month, Lucas paid $18.5 million in fines and costs after admitting to falsifying records following a year-long criminal investigation.

The ban comes a week after talks between Lucas and the Defence Department over compensation for the deficient gearboxes collapsed. The Navy is thought to be demanding up to £30 million more in compensation than Lucas is prepared to offer. Last October, Lucas set aside £87.6 million to cover the cost of settlement and reorganisation, and the Navy is thought to be demanding the entire balance. Lucas however hopes to settle for a similar sum to the criminal fine it suffered.

A Lucas spokesman described the ban as "a negotiating tactic" to force the company to recommence the stalled negotiations.

Lucas shares slipped 8p to 174p after news of the ban, but Lucas stressed that its US defence activities were only a small part of the group's operations, and the two businesses directly involved in the civil dispute provide less than 1 per cent of the group's £2.5 billion turnover.

The Defence Department attacked Lucas's quality record when it imposed the ban, saying that the Air Mounted Airframe Accessory Drives (AMADs) remain substandard. The AMADs control all electric power on the plane during flight and any failure could force the plane to crash land.

A US Navy spokesman said: "The Navy continues to be concerned that the AMADs are demonstrating unsatisfactory reliability and not delivering value for money." The Department said that it is developing another source for the AMADs.

Lucas, however, defended the quality record of its AMADs. The spokesman said: "Independent reports say that the failure rate is less than specified in the contracts and they are operating in environments three times harsher than they are designed for."

Lucas had been hoping to win a contract to supply the AMADs on the US Navy's new generation of F/A-18 fighters. The group said yesterday that it hopes to clear itself before the orders are placed. The Defence Department said that the ban would only be lifted when Lucas could demonstrate that "they have the responsibility, honesty and integrity required of a government contractor".

VAT debts of £819m written off in a year

BY A CORRESPONDENT

CUSTOMS and Excise wrote off nearly £819 million in VAT debts in one year largely because of the recession, a report showed yesterday.

The National Audit Office (NAO) said that £184 million was written off in 1989 and that the sum increased each year, reaching £819 million in 1993, covering 115,000 instances of VAT and VAT penalties. Insolvency was the most common reason.

"In real terms, the amount of VAT written off increased nearly fourfold between 1989 and 1993," the NAO said.

Customs and Excise writes off VAT debts considered irrecoverable or not cost-effective to pursue, though the debt may still be collected later.

"The large rise in amounts of VAT written off in recent years can largely be attributed to the difficult economic climate," the NAO said. "There is no evidence to suggest Customs have written off amounts which at the time of write-off would have been cost-effective to pursue further."

The NAO found regional variations, and noted: "Between November 1993 and March 1994 ... there were significantly more writes-off in London and Manchester, reflecting the higher levels of insolvency among traders in those areas."

Dawn Primarolo, a Labour Treasury spokeswoman, said: "This is public money that should have been collected and used for the public good. The Government must accept full responsibility for this waste of resources."

She claimed that the Government proposed to cut the number of VAT officers when the NAO report showed that more were needed.

"Instead of pursuing non-payment of tax, the Government imposed VAT on domestic fuel which would not have been necessary had these monies been collected," she said.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Mandela to consider future of finrand

CHRISTOPHER Liebenberg, South Africa's Finance Minister, yesterday said he would consult President Mandela and Chris Stals, Governor of the Reserve Bank, before making a decision about the abolition of the financial rand (finrand). The statement came as the commercial rand took a heavy pounding on the Johannesburg stock exchange, pushing the discount between the finrand and commercial rand to a record low of 3.7 during the day, prompting Reserve Bank intervention to bolster the local currency.

The commercal rand started at R3.59 against the dollar and reached an intraday high of R3.66 before intervention, ending the day at R3.60. Dealers said the Reserve Bank was forced to intervene to quell rumours of an imminent abolition of the finrand. Denials by the Cabinet that abolition had been on the agenda have done little to dampen speculation. In spite of the low discount, most dealers felt abolition would not be market determined, but required a political decision.

Towry holds dividend

TOWRY LAW, the chain of independent financial advisers that issued a profit warning last November, is maintaining its interim dividend at 1.5p, in spite of slumping to a pre-tax loss of £1.14 million in the six months to December 31, compared with a profit of £565,000 last time. Turnover fell to £9.36 million from £10.9 million as the financial services industry encountered "a prolonged period of difficulty". There was a loss of 5.4p a share, against earnings of 1.9p last time. The interim dividend will be paid on April 3. The shares firmed 1p to 78p, compared with a placing price of 190p when the company joined the market in November 1993.

Multiyork buyer found

A BUYER has been found for Multiyork, the East Anglian furniture maker which was placed in the hands of receivers earlier this week. Grant Thornton, the receiver, has announced that the business has been sold to Wade, the Nottingham-based furniture company, for an undisclosed sum. The company employs 460 people across the country at 40 showrooms which were closed on Tuesday when the receiver was called in. Yesterday, 112 people based at the company's premises in Brandon and Thetford lost their jobs at the ailing company which last year made a pre-tax loss of £2.7 million.

EU stands by Ruggiero

THE European Union will not withdraw Renato Ruggiero, former Italian Trade Minister, as its candidate for the top post at the World Trade Organisation, rebuffing calls by Booth Gardner, US trade ambassador, to have him step down. Peter Guilford, spokesman for the European Commission, said commissioners dismissed calls for all three candidates to stand down for a compromise choice. Signor Ruggiero is vying with Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Mexico's former President, and Kim Chulsu, former South Korean Trade Minister. The US backs Senhor Salinas, who received 28 votes in an internal poll. Signor Ruggiero got 57 and Mr Kim 20.

Campbell back in black

CAMPBELL & ARMSTRONG, the shopfitter, which incurred losses of £2.3 million in 1993, returned to profit in 1994, earning £200,000 before tax. Earnings were 1.4p a share, compared with losses of 15.6p, but there is again no dividend. Ray Chambers, chairman, said that the reduction of the share premium account in 1994 would enable the resumption of dividend payments out of future profits at an earlier date than would otherwise be possible. Turnover rose to £60.7 million, from £50.5 million, giving an operating profit of £900,000, against losses of £1 million previously.

Sales rise at Siemens

SIEMENS, the German electronics group, said sales and orders rose in the first four months of the current financial year to January 31. They were up 8 per cent to DM25.8 billion, against the same period of the previous year, and incoming orders rose one per cent to DM29.6 billion. The company said it expected its 1994-95 dividend would remain unchanged at DM13. Siemens gave no profit figures for the four-month period, but stuck by its profit forecast of DM2 billion before extraordinary items in the year starting October 1.

Sidlaw sells off jute

SIDLAW GROUP, the oil services and packaging company, has severed links with its origins in the jute industry in Scotland with the disposal of Sidlaw Textiles to J&F Spinners, a new consortium, for about £2.5 million. The business being sold comprises jute and flax spinning and textile trading, with attributable assets of £5.24 million and profits of £157,000 before tax in the last financial year. Assets relating to the face yarn business of Sidlaw Textiles has been transferred into a new wholly owned subsidiary, which will trade as New South Mills.

Float will value SGI at £45m

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SGI, the wire products and steel reinforcing bar group, plans to join the stock market next month through a placing and intermediaries offer that will raise about £30 million, £27 million of it new money.

SGI, formed after a £56 million management buy-in from Transport Development Group in 1989, will be capitalised at about £45 million.

The timing of the 1989 buy-in from TDG was poor in that SGI had to bear the brunt of the recession in many markets. The company has now been reshaped and its markets look healthier. It is a leading supplier of wire for UK supermarket trolleys, though its wire products span spectacles, bedding and seating.

SGI, which employs more than 1,000 people worldwide, reported a 28 per cent rise in operating profits to £6 million in the year to December 31, on turnover ahead 21 per cent to £135 million.

The price of SGI shares will be announced on March 8, with dealings due on March 16. JO Hambro Magan is sponsor and financial adviser. Smith New Court is broker and underwriter to the issue.

Shares in Colleagues Group, the consumer direct marketing services company, will be priced at 115p, capitalising it at £26 million when it comes to the market next month. The placing, sponsored by NatWest Markets, with Panmure Gordon broker, will raise £8.2 million, of which £1.3 million is receivable by the company. Dealings are to begin on March 2.

In the year to December 31, Colleagues lifted pre-tax profits to £3.03 million (£2 million), on turnover of £36.2 million (£26.1 million). James Robson is chairman, with Andrew Bennett managing director and Robbie Barrett finance director.

Sun Life is the biggest customer, accounting for about 71 per cent of last year's gross profit. This proportion is expected to fall to 57 per cent this year and to decrease thereafter.



Colleagues: Barrett, left, Bennett and Robson

Ford drives into Vietnam market

FROM AP IN HANOI

FORD joined the rush into Vietnam's tiny automobile market on Thursday, signing a $102 million agreement to assemble cars and trucks there.

The deal, if approved by Vietnamese authorities, would make Ford the first US carmaker to invest in the country since the Vietnam War ended 20 years ago. Ford also would become the biggest American investor in Vietnam since Washington lifted its 19-year economic embargo a year ago.

Ford signed a joint venture agreement with Vietnam's Song Cong Diesel to assemble its vehicles from imported kits at a plant to be built 35 miles east of Hanoi. The two companies hope to win approval from the State Committee for Co-operation and Investment to begin work on the facility in April, said Bui Van Liet, the Vietnamese partner's director.

Thomas Cook, Ford's director of international business development, said: "We have successfully completed a joint feasibility study with Song Cong. We are optimistic that the government will approve our application." Mr Cook declined to give details after the private signing ceremony when asked to name the models of cars and pick-up trucks to be built by the new venture, called Ford Vietnam.

The first cars should roll off the assembly line in 1997, Mr Liet said. Ford will hold a 75 per cent share in the venture, with state-run Song Cong owning the remainder.

Industry analysts say the Vietnamese bought fewer than 4,000 new cars and vehicles of all types in 1994. Foreign car companies are betting on the long-term potential of Vietnam's 72 million consumers, but some investors doubt that the country's backward economy can support all the attention.

Germany's Bayerische Motoren Werke assembled its first sedans from imported kits at a Hanoi factory last month. Japan's Mitsubishi started last week to build a mini-van plant near Ho Chi Minh City. Suzuki of Japan plans to break ground for a similar facility in March, while Toyota . . the biggest Japanese carmaker, wants to invest in an assembly plant of its own.

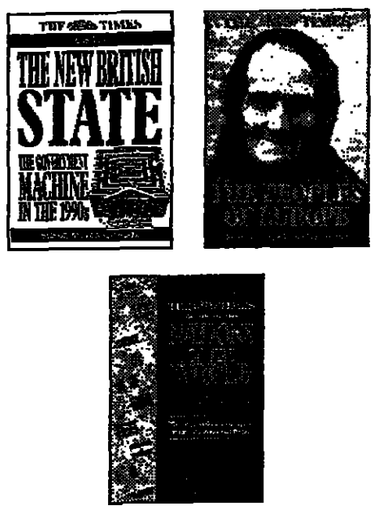
Chrysler, one of Ford's biggest rivals, has also expressed strong interest in assembling cars in Vietnam.

THE TIMES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity of Rose Elizabeth Greene for a Convalescent Home for Poor Ladies

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at THE COURTYARD, BEDDING COURT, STEYNING, WEST SUSSEX BN44 3TN, or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL quoting reference JM:206283A/3-CDcT) Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

ACRE SURVEYS LIMITED, TRAVERS MORGAN INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED, TRAVERS MORGAN GROUP SERVICES LIMITED, SAVOY COMPUTING LIMITED.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Meetings of the Creditors of the above-named Companies will be held at 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT on 1 March 1995 at 10.30 am, 10.40 am, 10.50 am and 11.00 am respectively, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of names and addresses of the Companies Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days immediately before the day fixed for the Meetings.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meetings must lodge (unless attending in a personal capacity) a proxy at PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT no later than 12 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the Meetings. Creditors intending to vote at the Meetings must lodge a full statement of account with their proxies. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a Creditor will not be entitled to vote unless a claim has been lodged and admitted for voting purposes. Secured Creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meetings.
By Order of the Board
CALAIN CRANE
Director

COLIN PHILIP BOOTY - IN BANKRUPTCY
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John Mason of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HD, was appointed Trustee of Colin Philip Booty on 10th February 1995 by an order of the Secretary of State
DATED this 20th day of February 1995
D J MASON - TRUSTEE

Computerelate Plc
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 10th March 1995 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 555, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 21st February 1995
K Allistone - Director

IN THE CLERKENWELL COURT
Case No 1994-CK18187
To Peter Henry John Allen, address unknown.
TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the above court by Sy Jeng Cheng of 25 Dresden Road, London N19 for sale of the freehold interest in 26 Dresden Road, London and an order has been made that the publication of a notice of the issue of such action in The Times newspaper shall be deemed sufficient service of the proceedings on you.
The action will be heard at 33 Duncan Terrace, Islington, N1 on Tuesday 21 March 1995 at 2.30 pm, on which day you are to appear and if you do not appear either in person or by your solicitor at the time and place abovementioned, such order will be made as the court thinks just.
Dated 23rd day of February 1995
Messrs Cole & Cole
Buxton Court
3 West Way
Oxford OX2 0SZ
Ref AJW

Datafix Design Limited
Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HY on 3rd March 1995 at 2.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 4th Floor, St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH between 10 am and 5 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the creditors meeting. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must unless they are individual creditors attending in person lodge their proxies at 4th Floor, St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH no later than 12 noon on 2nd March 1995. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a creditor will not be entitled to vote unless his proof has been lodged and admitting for voting purposes. Whilst proofs may be lodged at any time before voting commences, creditors intending to vote at the meeting are requested to send them with their proxies. Unless they surrender their security, secured creditors must give particulars of their security and its value if they wish to vote at the meeting.
Dated this the 15/2/1995
P N King Director

Notice of Appointment of Administrators
Discovery Cruises Limited
Registered number: 2717749
Trading name(s): Voyages of Discovery
Discovery Cruises
Discovery Explorer
Nature of business: Tour Operator
Trade classification: 32
Date of appointment of Administrators: 30 January 1995
Appointment by Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division
Raymond Hocking and Anthony Peter Suppertone
Joint Administrators
(office holder nos) 2322 and 2703)
Address :BDO Stoy Hayward 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA

EXCALIBUR PROMOTIONS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 14th March 1995 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 555, 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 21st February 1995
Spencer James Laymond
Director

EUROTEC LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 3rd March 1995 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 555, 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 21st February 1995
Alan French - Director

NOTICE OF 899 MEETING OF CREDITORS
LAMBERT BROTHERS (UNDERWRITING AGENCIES) LIMITED
Principal Trading Address: St. Clare House, 30-33 Minories, London, EC3N 1DD
Company Number 936595
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 10.15 a.m. on 2 March, 1995 at Cedric House, 8-9 East Harding Street, London EC4A 3AS for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Touche Ross & Co of PO Box 810, Cedric House, 8-9 East Harding Street, London EC4A 3AS during the two business days preceding the above meeting.
Dated 20 February, 1995
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
D.P. EVE

Narrow Mechanical Services Limited
Registered Number: 1368087
Trading Name: Narrows Mechanical Services Limited.
Nature of Business: Heating/Ventilation System Install'n.
Trade Classification: 27
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 17 February 1995
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): Barclays Bank plc
Type of Security: Mortage Debenture.
Date of Security: 21/10/95.
Names of persons appointed: L A Manning and D J Buchler both of Buchler Phillips 84 Grosvenor Street London W1X 9DF. (Office Holder Nos: 6477 and 3154)

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
071-782 7344
OR
FAX: 071-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Equities and bonds bounce back

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
823	380½	Abbey Nat	446	+ 9	4.4	15.0
314	233	Allied Irish	308	+ 2	6.2	10.3
278½	171	Anz New Z	214	+ 1	5.4	7.7
3393	2482½	Bank Americ†	2989½	+ 31½	..	..
247	172½	Bank Scotland	205	+ 4½	3.3	11.4
640	487	Barclays	614	+ 17	3.4	13.0
319	246	Bk of Ireland	306	+ 2	4.7	8.9
2912½	2267½	Chicorp	2730	+ 75	..	..
266½	203	Close Bros	233	..	4.0	18.5
2150½	1727½	Commercial	2149½	+215½	5.9	..
1298½	993½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1150	- 9½	0.5	..
3344½	2270½	Deutsche Bk	3307½	- 98½	2.3	..
1315½	765½	Equitable Susq	765½	- 3½	11.6	..
98	57	First Nat Finl	68	+ ½	2.7	44.0
1549½	1192½	First Bank Y	1299½	- 2	0.4	..
473	269	Hambros	330	- 1	6.2	14.1
1113	798	HSBC	898	+ 16	4.8	9.6
1139	578	HSBC HK	859½	+ 15½	4.6	9.5
443	393	Joseph (L)	393	..	5.6	11.4
693	424	Kleinwort Ben	631	..	4.4	11.8
668	519	Lloyds†	577	+ 15	5.6	9.7
632½	472	Nat Aust Bk	498	+ 3	6.9	..
692	451	Nat West	594	+ 14	5.5	8.3
3395	2100	Ottoman Bank	2150	..	6.5	5.2
79	53	Rea Bros	62	..	1.9	17.4
628	373½	Rpl Bk Scott	402	+ 4	4.3	11.5
1574	1080	Schroders	1513	+ 3	1.5	13.9
1458	1043	Schroders NV	1328	+ 2	1.7	15.4
114	75	Singer & Fried	97	..	3.1	8.8
3596	2231	Standard Chart	3515	+ 7	1.7	15.4
291	197	TSB†	248	+ 3	4.7	10.2
1012	569	Wardley Sti	721	+ 2	3.8	13.2
2105	8612½	Wells Fargo	21007½	+ 56½	2.9	..
350	194	Westpac	228½	+ 1½	2.4	..
380	203	Wemyss	220	..	6.0	14.7

BREWERIES

1025	150	Ascot Hdgs	152	- 2	..	..
619	485	Bass	513	..	5.1	12.7
396	263	Boddington	346	+ 1	4.2	13.2
196	168	Burtonwd Brwf	171	..	3.7	14.3
181	142	Chrlstgs P 'A'	165	..	3.1	39.0
96	64½	Fosters Brewing	95	..	5.1	14.1
453	353	Fuller Sm 'A'	340	..	2.9	14.1
511	388	Greenalls Gpt	415	..	3.9	13.7
584	452	Greene King	471	..	5.5	12.8
397	338	Hardy Hanson	361	..	4.5	12.7
170	135	Mcmillan	156	..	3.6	..
3273	2136	Holl J	2388	..	1.8	18.6
246	196	Marstons	234	..	2.5	14.3
314	256	Morton Thmp	277	..	2.8	13.6
545	436	Morland	445	..	3.0	13.4
19½	6½	Paramount	7	..	4.4	16.4
329	208	Regnal Inns	326	+ 1	2.3	18.5
1999½	1000	SA Breweries	1487½	..	1.9	23.8
509	377	Scot & Newc	509	+ 4	4.3	14.6
308	293	Wem Geogp	298	..	5.6	12.3
491	324½	Wolverhampton JD	464	+ 1	1.8	26.5
517	494	Youngerwd	509	+ 1½	4.4	14.7
1589	488	Workington D	488	..	3.5	12.7
1048	716	Yates Bros	960	+ 1	2.4	15.8
535	495	Young 'A'	460	..	4.1	19.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

205	138	Abbey	138	..	5.0	9.5
300	145	Allen	158	..	4.4	14.8
196	147	Amec	158	+ 1	6.4	34.0
67	47	Andrew Scott	67	..	..	..
333	247	Ashtead	321	..	1.7	18.0
197	97	Avenside	188	..	5.6	11.6
36	26	Bailey (Benj) Con	36	..	2.5	21.4
186	186	Bacom	..	..	..	..
209	161	Barratt Devs	161	+ 3	4.7	12.5
188	122	Beazer Homes	131	+ 2	5.2	10.3
201	179	Bellway	197	+ 1	4.4	11.7
56	31	Berkeley	35	..	2.9	30.6
443	393	Bovis	393	+ 7	2.8	10.9
215	118	Bpt Bros	178	..	3.2	5.5
218	210	Brad (Henry)	218	..	3.7	11.0
138	126	Brandon Hire	115	..	7.6	..
1308	451	Br Bldg & Eng	1308	..	1.7	6.1
1974½	105	Brownf	111	+ 3	3.7	10.6
145¼	98	CALA	105	..	3.3	14.5
54	34	Camphll & Ann	34	..	..	..
84	44	Clarke T	48	- 3	3.2	41.6
175	175	Costain	175	..	..	..
97	67	Countryside	78	+ 2	5.5	15.2
73	53	Crest Nicholson	73	..	3.3	..
97	73	Cussons	97	..	5.2	9.8
21	17	Edmond Hdgs	18	..	2.1	..
298	230	Ees Export	230	..	4.8	9.7
11	8	Galliford	9	..	8.4	..
112	85	Gibbs & Dandy	85	..	2.1	14.8
1028	823	Glennon (Alf)	863	..	2.1	14.8
88	71	Green (Ernest)	84	..	6.0	28.0
21	17	Hardwick Sons	19	..	2.0	15.7
169	133	Hawden-Stuart	151	..	3.5	17.5
144	63	Higgs & Hill	63	..	3.7	..
71	6	Howard Hdgs	9	..	5.5	17.7
..	..	Ibstock	..	..	..	..
103	77	Keller	103	..	4.5	12.3
88	68	Lang (J)	68	..	6.0	16.9
118	88	Laing 6.4% Cr Pf	89	..	9.0	..
115	104	Lon Clyde-Gpf	117	..	5.7	..
68	54	Lovell (TJ)	68	..	3.4	12.3
196	196	Manders (J)	205	..	3.4	12.3
154	154	McAlpine (A)	157	+ 1	5.2	23.5
147	147	McCarthy & S	147	..	..	18.7
91	91	Morgan Sindall	91	..	0.2	..
118	118	Mowlem (J)	118	..	6.6	11.1
178	178	Persimmon	178	- 1	6.6	11.1
2000	2000	Pochin	2000	..	2.0	26.0
113	113	Pradeng	113	..	4.0	17.7
47	47	Press Hid	47	..	3.5	15.6
104	104	Prime Focus	104	..	3.6	10.4
36	36	Ransome	36	..	3.6	9.4
94	94	Redland	94	..	3.7	10.4
294	149	Rmc	294	..	2.7	17.1
310	207	Rmc Group	310	..	2.6	22.0
60	38	Rmc Pfd & Gtd	55	..	4.0	..
62½	5½	Perth Group	6½	..	..	..
51½	5½	Rodime	6	..	..	..
120	75	Shaw & McKean	75	- 1	3.5	..
244	186	Shelter (Wm)	186	- 2	9.4	12.7
700	319	Wates Mgr Int	335	- 6	..	..

BUILDING MATERIALS

36½	12	Allington	12	..	5.2	20.3
283	263	Alumasc	336	..	2.5	16.8
88½	43½	Ashtenby Gp	50	..	3.1	25.7
383	274	BPB Ind	317	+ 3	3.3	16.3
142	91	Baggeridge Br	125	..	3.1	12.9
69	30	Bardon	31½	..	7.9	..
93	58	Blockleys	69	- 1	1.7	..
391	261	Blue Circle	364	- 1	5.3	18.7
117	82	Brenton PLC	74	..	7.8	21.2
208	157	Brockway	174	..	2.3	16.1
409	321	CRH	359	..	2.7	16.2
70	31	Caldmead Rdy	41	..	..	4.4
278	198	Cape	208	..	6.6	13.2
454	224	Clarnaine	231	- 1	4.8	15.3
215½	174	Cookson pl	191	- 1½	4.2	..
89	46	Chilcot Gp	54	..	8.1	10.8
134	69	Dyson (Jack)	107	..	4.1	15.1
97	63	Dyson 'A')	64	..	6.8	9.6
15¾	4½	Eclipse Blinds	7½	..	..	..
150	123	Ennis	139	..	3.5	15.6
73	57	Erith	62	..	2.8	34.9
218	169	Gethyn Gp	172	..	3.3	16.4
398	312	Halstead (J)	317	..	3.8	14.6
511	395	Hepworth	395	- 1	3.8	16.0
88	46	Hestair	80	..	2.3	13.9
15¾	6½	Hoult (J)A	8½	..	2.5	..
473	347	Hoveld Wtn	360	..	6.5	14.7
188	67	Ibstock	84	+ 2	1.5	..
294	149	Jollmpton	269	..	2.1	32.3
170	94	Lilleshall	97	..	6.1	10.2
273½	172	Marley	192	..	4.3	14.5
155	124	Marshalls†	139	..	4.4	11.5
568	314	Meyer Int	316	+ 1	4.3	12.3
196	146	Morgan Tnks	146	..	4.9	10.4
212½	76	Norcros	79	+ 1	11.1	15.0
28	9	Phoenix Timber	14	..	..	..
208	143	Pilkington	188½	+ 4	3.0	32.5
185	155	Polypipe	168	..	2.2	14.5
1009	805	RMC Gp	922	+ 2	2.9	19.1
9	9	Ranas	9	..	..	..
548	415	Redland	437	+ 3	7.2	30.2
188	150	Rmc	167	..	3.0	16.7
1859	1070	Rugby Group	1070	+ 2	3.0	18.7
103	62	Ruskin (A)	90	..	3.1	18.5
298	222	SIG	235	..	3.0	18.9
21	16	SWP	18	..	1.4	25.1
200	166	Sharpe & Fisher	175	..	3.1	12.8
81½	56	Spring Ram	56	..	1.8	..
206	165½	Tarmac	198½	+ ½	6.3	..
220	155	Tilon	155	- 1	3.6	12.5
320	224	Tonks Ponlex	287	- 2	3.6	17.7
28	21	Tarmac	28	..	1.1	..
54	33	Ultrprop	33	..	..	..
63	33	Waterhouse	43	..	..	..
139	83	Wates	97	+ 3	2.4	17.3
487½	351	Wimpey	360	+ 5	2.9	14.2

BUSINESS SERVICES

3½	1½	Anglo Utd	1½	..	..	..
118	68	Aqs Hldgs	78	..	8.9	..
165	107	Abacus	118	..	5.3	..
11	9½	Babcock (CH)	9½	..	..	..
49	36	Black Arrow	43	..	9.0	6.9
124	70	Br Bloodstock	79	..	..	70.9
13	5½	Chas Gp	9	..	..	16.0
19½	4½	Chrysalis	5½	..	3.1	18.6
157	108	Clubsport	141	..	7.1	10.5
237	188	Filtrona	227	..	3.1	19.5
50	28	Hemmyng	28	+ 1	3.9	23.3
292	234	Hoardwk	257	- 1	3.6	12.7
248	152	Lolgh	152½	+ ½	6.4	14.1
274	214	Mktg Gpt	232	..	3.4	14.7
310	207	Photo-Mat	207	..	2.6	22.0
60	38	Plant & Gen	55	..	4.0	..
12½	3½	Perth Group	4½	..	..	..
51½	5½	Redrow	8	..	..	..
120	75	Shaks & McKean	75	- 1	3.5	..
244	186	Sinclair (Wm)	186	- 2	9.4	12.7
700	319	Wates Mgr Int	335	- 6	..	..

CHEMICALS

196½	112	Allied Colloids	113	..	2.7	16.8
790	705	Amber Ind	780	..	3.4	15.5
214½	210½	BASF Dfd	210½	- 62½	3.5	..
762	627	BOC	712	+ 4	5.4	17.0
389½	236	BTP	243	+ 6	5.6	13.8
216½	212½	Bayer Dm50	215½	- 46½	3.0	..
171	97	Blagden	111	..	1.7	51.9
131	98	Brent Chemic	108	..	4.8	..
309	214	Br Vita	214	- 1	4.4	15.9
46	18	Cambridge Isa	18	..	..	..
199	153	Cleaning (W)	194	..	4.7	32.8
580	401	Crmrtaldale	432	+ 9	4.4	26.8
389	327	Croda	336	- 4	3.2	14.4
143	95	Doeflex	126	..	4.5	12.9
77	39½	Elem Colour▲	77	+ 1	5.8	22.2
149	110	Gibbons(R)	118	..	5.8	10.9
223	108	Hickson	129	..	7.8	11.6
153½	110½	Hoechst	113½	- 10½	2.7	..
290	159½	Holliday Chem	285	..	2.7	16.8
868	704	ICI	715	- 7	4.9	32.2
191½	97½	Kalon	97½	..	5.3	9.8
843	620	Laporte	838	+ 8	4.8	16.2
95	48	MTM	84	+ 1	2.3	..
485	298	Minorco	314	..	4.0	15.2
127	100	Mid ind Russn	114	..	6.8	12.4
126	36	Monsanto	36	..	11.3	5.1
67½	35½	Monsellon	44½	..	4.4	20.7
348	265	Pioneer	360	..	2.6	..
272	186	Scapa	190	+ ½	3.9	15.4
66	17	Sutcliffe Speakt	17	..	5.1	10.1
85½	66	Tekcis Chem	79	- 17	1.3	9.6
490	325	Wardle Storeys	350	..	8.2	19.5
230	186	Wellington Hdg	186	..	3.4	18.2
823	570	Wrightlee H	773	..	3.1	16.1
463	334	Yorks Chem	348	+ 2	3.1	..
306	257	Yule Cato	258	..	3.2	19.6

DISTRIBUTORS

127	95	ABI Lee	95	- 1	5.3	10.9
317	248	Acsi	307	- 1	2.8	16.6
535	253	Adam & Harvey	535	- 3	3.5	7.9
31	19	Alexanderst	19	..	6.6	..
175	88	Applegrn	91	..	6.0	16.1
6	3¼	Arg Br Eng	4½	..	1.5	50.3
578	405	BSS Group	530	..	4.3	16.7
25½	17	Beazley Power†	20	..	5.7	11.3
405	245	Bisichi Mir	248	..	5.3	10.2
40	28	Bogod 'A'	28	..	3.1	11.8
370	288	Bramex	347	..	4.7	18.3
31	12	Bridgend Gp	13½	+ 1½	4.6	13.7
98	78	Brit Fibreg	94	..	3.8	..
71	45	Brown & Tawse	61	..	..	..
57	36	Bundase	36	..	6.3	..
465	225	Cafyns	258	..	8.6	42.4
99	12	Castel Plc	16½	..	8.3	9.1
130	71	Central Mkt	71	..	4.8	..
51	30½	Cook (DC)	36	..	4.0	11.0
342½	197	Davis	224½	+ 3½	5.1	11.2
1824	127	Dig Motors	134	..	6.1	15.4
1661	445	Dennison Ell	568	..	1.4	14.5
828	414½	Dipleaco	431	- 2	3.9	15.1
589	443	Electrocomponents	504	+ 11	2.5	20.7
175	133	Electron Houset	158	- 2	2.8	13.3
293	225	Elks & Everard†	251	..	..	16.5
234	193	Eurodollar	193	..	5.5	15.1
99	39	European Mk	99	- 1	5.7	10.8
539½	376	Evans Halshaw	376	..	4.7	11.8
656	490½	Falkell Elect	562½	+ 4½	1.8	22.7
78	58	Fife Indmse	58	..	6.2	8.1
34	15	Gardner	29½	..	5.0	..
49	19	Glendevon	29	..	..	22.1
98	69	Gowrings	71	..	3.5	27.5
78	19	Hobbs Hdgs	62	- 2	..	48.4
177	133	Hsms (Philip)	165	..	5.7	14.7
342½	258	Harrys	268	..	3.6	13.9
191	88	Hookers Tech	92	..	8.1	10.1
138	101	ISA Intl	103	- 2	4.2	12.6
609	295	Inchcape	309	+ 1	6.2	10.0
68	25	Jacks (Wm)	58	..	..	13.4
184	142	Kelt-Fit	146	+ 3	3.4	16.7
573	527	Lex Service	561	+ 1	6.0	10.8
382	162	Lookers	173	..	5.6	9.3
39	14	Macleod Grp	14	..	2.2	..
..	3½	Maddersons ⊙	7½	..	..	..
448	279	Norbrsant	370	- 3	0.8	16.5
100	47	Northumber	91	..	1.8	38.6
175	125	PCT	125	..	6.7	14.7
310	238	Pensgrayton	238	..	4.1	15.0
238	138	Percy Gp	150	..	6.7	7.1
188	95	Rhodes Group	95	..	5.0	13.7
186	99½	REA	165	..	4.5	34.1
..	7½	Reece	..	..	..	..
24	8	Rees Gp	8½	..	..	..
24	4	SSL Int	4½	+ ½	3.3	..
44	31	TT Group	42	..	2.4	41.1
31	17	Tilbury Powell	20	..	5.0	13.7
98	61	Young (H)	75	..	6.0	14.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

202	148	Advnet	156	..	6.0	15.9
360	139½	Ambelgrecia	360	- 3	1.5	24.3
52	44	Amrod	44	..	3.3	9.1
997	773½	Broken Hill	853	+ 24	2.4	18.4
491	293	BTR	316	+ 3½	4.9	16.7
370	302	BWT	305	+ 12	6.1	11.1
3770	1520	Bunzon Group	3770	..	2.5	17.0
91	49	Bibby (J)	80	..	4.8	15.2
57	44	Brierley Inv	45½	..	9.3	2.6
838	536½	Charter	764	+ 1	3.8	22.4
235	215	Cookson	218	+ 1	3.7	19.7
382	272	Fleetwood	347½	..	3.4	15.2
220	136	Hanson Cr/Ad	145	+ 1	7.8	16.5
365½	280½	Hutch Whamp	350½	+ 2	5.2	18.4
710	489½	Jardine Math	537½	+ 14½	2.7	12.4
36	23	Jourdan (I)	30	..	4.0	12.5
175½	124½	Lonrho	151	+ 1½	3.7	27.7
66	49½	Powell Duffryn	49½	- 1	6.8	12.9
164	119½	Reyner	124	..	2.6	14.1
488	332	Rothmans	484	+ 1	5.3	22.9
34½	9	Salter	14½	+ ½	..	5.5
163½	105	Sime Darby	153	- 3	3.3	16.9
311	207	Staveley	286	..	6.4	51.1
239	148	Slater	239	..	7.5	14.9
366	220	TT Group	233	..	4.3	..
210	202	Tomkinsn†	202	- 1	4.3	14.6
124	69½	Tndalgar Ht	69½	- 1	1.9	..
440	245	Unidare	256	..	6.5	..
324	249½	Wassall	260	..	1.7	22.3
134	99½	Wagon Ind	134	..	2.6	15.1
434½	369	Williams Hldg	384	+ 4	5.0	20.1

ELECTRICITY

650½	610½	East Midlandt	632	- 7	4.7	31.8
782	566	Eastern Elect	766	- 13	4.4	15.2
598	536	London Elect	578	- 21	4.3	11.8
685	635	Manweb†	683	- 13	4.3	9.4
685	535	Midlands Elect	683	- 23	4.3	11.1
1139	1025	National Pwr	1139	- 12	4.3	10.2
685	595	New Ireland	685	..	4.2	9.6
322	283	Northern Elec	322	..	4.2	23.5
519	449	Norweb	519	+ 6	4.3	11.2
519	449	Powergen	519	+ 6	4.3	11.2
1175	1045	Scot Hydro-Elect	1175	+ 6	4.3	10.4
1045	1000	Scottish Power†	1045	+ 6	4.3	10.4
1045	1000	Seeboard	1045	+ 6	4.3	10.4
1045	1000	Southern Elect	1045	+ 6	4.3	10.4
1045	1000	Swalec	1045	+ 6	4.3	10.4
1045	1000	Yorkshire Elec	1045	+ 6	4.3	10.4

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

139	68	Accro Comp	69½	..	1.3	19.5
455	163	Alfed	191	..	3.2	15.6
1537½	1000	Amstrad	1537½	+ 5	2.0	..
94½	77	Action	87½	..	1.4	16.5
151	112	Bicc	113	- 12	3.0	9.9
1000	411	Bicc Cbl	1000	..	7.3	20.7
1000	411	Bicc Cbl	1000	..	7.3	20.7
175	127	Bookham Tech	175	..	6.7	14.7
230	138	Brown (J)	230	..	6.7	15.0
310	238	Pentagon	238	..	4.1	15.1
238	138	Perry Gp	150	..	6.7	7.1
188	95	Rhodes Group	95	..	5.0	13.7
186	99½	REA	165	..	4.5	34.1
..	7½	Reece	..	..	..	..
24	8	Rees Gp	8½	..	..	..
24	4	SSL Int	4½	+ ½	3.3	..
44	31	TT Group	42	..	2.4	41.1
31	17	Tilbury Powell	20	..	5.0	13.7
98	61	Young (H)	75	..	6.0	14.0

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

66	31	AAF Inds	33	- 2	..	..
188	108	Alnlow Smaln	157	..	3.2	15.4
638	440	Aves Rubbert	465	..	4.6	16.0
206	173	BBA	197	- 2	3.0	..
248	199	Barry Stans	221	..	1.2	..
91½	65	Br Assets	82	+ ½	6.2	..
130	61	Bryant	78	- 2	6.3	12.6
120	101	Bwtt	106	..	4.3	17.9
139	99	Bwtt	131	..	2.9	18.2
1554	687	Bwtt	1450	..	4.9	9.6
408	293	Morgan Chle	388	..	6.2	15.0
217	176	Morris Ashby†	197	+ 5	4.1	13.7
51	34	Newmarket	34	..	4.6	17.1
128	48	Nestlemarch	68	..	3.1	..
60	40	Newmans (L)	40	..	..	..
99½	27½	Old Intl	28½	..	7.7	..
358	277	Oxford Instr	321	+ 2	2.0	18.9
341	248	Powerscreen	248	- 7	3.8	18.4
258½	124	Prospect Indust	134	..	8.0	6.8
108	80	Radiant Metal	73	..	..	..
71	13	Rassamas	55	..	..	..
95	70	Record	80	..	5.6	18.9
281	243½	Renishaw	265	..	3.1	22.4
167	129	Rexnold	160½	..	2.1	25.0
73	51	Rexnord (Luton)	56	..	5.1	20.4
104½	76	Richardson West	75	..	6.4	16.5
204	149	Wells-Fargo	150	..	4.2	28.4
199	156	Rotork	164	..	3.4	16.7
160	134	Rubicont	150	..	3.8	25.6
150½	67	Senior Eng	72	..	5.9	11.7
270	245	Spirax-Sarco	266	..	3.1	20.4
630	498	Stanley	625	- 1	2.7	16.9
130½	74	Simon Eng	81	..	..	..
82	35	Sn Hinaleat	81	..	2.3	28.0
1456½	1000	Smiths Ind	1169½	+ 21½	..	..
1527½	411	Smiths Ind	1492	+ 3	3.8	16.8
1000	327	Spirax-Sarco	1000	..	2.7	19.5
455	187	Sterling Ind	187	..	6.7	15.0
455	328	TT	334	- 3	4.3	18.5
121	82	Tinsley (S)	82	..	7.2	13.2
183	135	Translate Tech	135	..	6.8	8.6
1000	411	Tricentrol Oil	1000	..	7.3	20.7
1000	411	Tricentrol Oil	1000	..	7.3	20.7
1165	968	VSEL	1165	+ 7	2.9	14.2
31½	11½	Verson	13½	..	..	..
204	162	Vickers	171	..	2.6	18.1
327	230	Wadkin	240	..	4.2	13.2
69	9½	Wagon Eng Pgs	24½	..	..	..
531	451	Vinton	511	..	2.0	13.4
1000	691	Vosper Thorny	730	..	3.2	15.8
592	445	Wagon Ind	445	..	6.1	23.8
1045	227	Weir	1045	..	1.0	23.1
54	36	Wellman	38	..	3.2	62.7
364	265	Whatman	447	+ 7	2.9	16.4
264	80	Wheelco	123	..	2.3	..

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

611	488	Alt Foods†	588	..	3.4	12.2
388	233	Allied Foods	344	+ 9	3.5	10.5
87	48	Albert Fisher	48	..	10.5	13.0
387	285	Banks (S C)	285	..	8.0	9.4
387	365	Barr (AG)	368	..	2.6	..
72	15	Bonsucro Crop	15	..	..	..

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Gilt and Fixed Int Acc	159.35	168.60	+ 0.18	0.34
Gilt and Fixed Int Inc	125.50	132.90	+ 0.50	3.99
Growth Equity	189.00	200.20	+ 0.40	0.51
Growth Fund Acc	103.20	113.30		4.04
Growth and Income	153.10	162.00	+ 0.30	5.61
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	510.30	542.90	+ 1.70	2.26
General Inc	450.30	479.80	+ 1.50	2.96
UK Growth Acc	344.10	366.10	+ 1.30	3.03
UK Growth Inc	304.40	324.00	+ 1.10	3.03
Higher Inc Acc	542.80	583.40	+ 2.00	7.03
Higher Inc Inc	371.50	395.30	+ 1.40	7.03
Gilt/Fixed Int Acc	183.70	194.10	+ 1.40	5.96
Gilt/Fixed Int Inc	89.32	94.34	+ 0.66	5.96
North America	260.40	277.10	+ 1.70	
Far East	318.10	338.50	+ 2.10	
Europe	266.20	283.20	+ 0.30	0.85
Pref Equity	78.25	72.61	+ 0.35	3.63
Pref Fixed Inc	57.76	104.60	+ 0.29	4.42
Pref Property	71.72	76.30	+ 0.15	4.92
Global Opps	79.77	84.87	+ 0.30	0.37
Balanced Acc	51.86	55.19	+ 0.12	3.19
Balanced Inc	50.60	53.83	+ 0.11	3.19
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	127.00	134.80	+ 1.00	7.92
High Inc Equity	153.80	164.50	+ 0.20	4.78
Worldwide Bond	350.50	376.80	+ 0.40	5.49
Capital Growth				
American Growth	273.40	297.00	+ 1.00	62
Asian Pacific	290.20	309.70	+ 0.70	
Accum & Earnings	265.30	281.90	+ 0.70	3.07
Commdty & Energy	96.91	103.10	+ 0.56	13
Euro Special Inc	128.60	137.50	+ 0.40	71
(Accum Units)	137.40	146.90	+ 0.33	70
General	215.60	229.30	+ 0.70	3.37
Japan	111.60	119.40	+ 1.00	
Mastermix	131.70	140.90	+ 0.20	1.85
UK Growth Bd	111.40	119.10		3.06
UC Emerging Cos	129.70	138.70	+ 0.60	
Income & Growth	303.20	306.40	+ 0.90	3.72
Special	63.65	67.71	+ 0.15	3.18
International	106.50	113.30	+ 0.20	1.05
Dividend & Growth	67.15	60.80†	+ 0.05	4.63
Global Cash & Sec	56.25	70.65	+ 0.09	2.56
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Growth Cos	£16.08	£16.73		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 blss blss				
Amer Inc & Growth	43.38	45.03	+ 0.03	0.69
Cash	50.49	50.49	+ 0.01	5.79
Emerging Mkts	62.96	66.72	+ 0.37	0.05
Eurogrowth	108.60	113.40†	+ 0.30	
Europa	93.90	99.30†	+ 0.60	1.87
Extra Income #	45.60	48.73	+ 0.02	8.74
Far East Emg Eqn	105.50	112.40	+ 0.60	0.56
Fixed Interest #	32.53	23.65	+ 0.02	8.74
Fixed Int Tst	103.70	112.70	+ 0.93	0.98
Japan	161.70	169.50	+ 0.60	
Latin American	44.97	47.35	+ 0.66	1.03
Pacific	67.13	70.83	+ 0.04	0.17
Property Share	59.91	62.69†	+ 0.05	7.51
UK Emerging Cos	90.26	95.51†	+ 0.11	2.64
UK Growth	41.96	44.45	+ 0.11	2.64
Apor World Port #	68.39	69.56	+ 0.16	2.35
Eurocz	59.87	62.94	+ 0.09	2.60
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	49.17	49.17	+ 0.24	7.63
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
01.31 549 3232				
Bnchi Growth	66.44	69.61†	- 0.03	3.06
Bnchi Income	75.72	79.36†	+ 0.04	5.79
Select Portfolio	80.46	85.69†	- 0.53	
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	70.54	74.64	+ 0.04	2.61
Income Builder Inc	64.13	68.22	- 0.09	3.05
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
PH ttlp 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	216.70	231.60	+ 1.10	3.37
Capital	379.10	405.20	+ 1.50	2.04
Balanced	633.50	677.20†	+ 2.20	2.94
Accumulation	511.76	512.57	+ 5.00	3.23
Income Trusts				
American Income	46.42	49.62†	- 0.01	3.59
High Income	367.40	392.70	+ 1.30	3.93
Equity Income	287.30	301.40†	+ 0.70	3.76
High Yield	222.80	238.10	+ 0.80	3.65
Gold Securities	32.64	34.46†	+ 0.13	6.15
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	141.40	151.10	+ 1.40	0.46
European Growth	32.88	35.03	+ 0.14	0.01
International	147.80	157.90†		0.21
Japan	185.40	197.80†	- 2.40	0.01
Pacific	347.30	371.20	+ 1.60	0.01
Secs of America	412.30	438.60†	+ 2.80	0.53
Wendle Assd Val	44.65	47.73	+ 0.01	0.25
Specialised Trusts				
Asset Value	485.10	518.50†	+ 1.50	2.46
Cons & Gilt	40.43	43.21†	+ 0.17	5.37
Smaller Cos	156.60	167.60†	- 0.20	1.32
2nd Smaller Cos	148.90	159.60	- 0.20	1.52
Recovery	127.70	136.50	+ 0.60	1.06
Mid Min & City	140.20	149.80	+ 0.20	0.79
Quest Earnings	324.50	346.80†	+ 1.00	1.94
Technology	155.40	166.10	+ 0.10	0.01
UK Special Sits	419.10	448.00†	+ 2.50	1.93
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 528 911				
Cnsold Dist Pens	95.54	99.28		3.04
Founds Pens Pens	58.89	62.22	..	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 800 0033				
Capital	66.85	71.12†	+ 0.45	1.97
International	60.24	64.09†		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	266.50	288.80	+ 0.70	
Bond	169.50	174.30†	+ 0.50	7.28
Bal Sante Cos	92.46	98.36†	+ 0.10	1.91
Conv & Gen #	61.79	65.73†	+ 0.14	5.66
Europe	211.60	225.50	+ 0.70	0.63
Extra Yield Cos	95.98	102.20	+ 0.20	0.91
Income Growth	229.50	358.50	+ 0.50	4.53
Japan	270.20	286.20	+ 3.70	
Latin American	58.22	61.94	+ 0.14	
Pacific	95.03	101.10	+ 0.30	1.54
Uk Emerging Cos	70.55	82.78†	+ 0.04	1.44
Uk Growth	41.96	44.45	+ 0.11	2.64
Apor World Port #	68.39	69.56	+ 0.16	2.35
Eurocz	59.87	62.94	+ 0.09	2.60
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	49.17	49.17	+ 0.24	7.63
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 486 8573				
Gilt & Gtaes	268.26	282.30	..	1.31
Capital Bnds	104.20	109.70	..	2.45
Wkdde Opps	170.20	179.20		0.44
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Managed Trusts				
Wld Inv Fd Inc	322.00	335.50	+ 2.30	3.25
European Bd Inc	97.05	90.17†	+ 0.02	7.05
Exempt	69.50	74.14	+ 0.04	4.50
Financial	69.21	74.02	+ 0.26	3.65
500 0	413.30	442.00†	- 0.80	2.73
General	257.10	275.00	+ 0.40	2.94
Property	246.80	264.10	-	6.58
Treasure	168.00	179.70	- 0.10	2.65
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.60	100.60†	-	5.60
Extra Income	111.30	119.00	-	4.37
Gilt & Fxd Int	88.74	87.10†	+ 0.17	9.03
Income	485.60	519.30†	+ 0.30	4.40
Income Builder	58.77	62.53†	- 0.06	5.22
Intl Income	58.38	62.11	+ 0.04	3.96
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	109.60	116.90†	+ 0.20	2.67
Leisure	112.70	120.60	- 0.10	1.71
Recovery	384.80	411.50	+ 1.0	3.05
Smlls Cos Inc	41.54	44.55	+ 0.10	2.12
Special Sits	361.60	279.80	+ 0.10	1.78
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	122.00	129.50	- 0.40	0.86
Aust Acc	225.60	240.00	- 0.80	2.36
Aust Inc	136.80	147.70	- 0.50	2.36
Euro Growth Inc	142.30	151.50	+ 0.20	1.25
(Accum Units)	152.20	161.50	+ 0.19	1.03
Japan & Gen Inc	155.40	164.80	- 1.50	
(Accum Units)	157.20	166.50	- 1.50	
Japan Spec Sits	71.84	75.26	- 0.05	
Unit Trust Inc	73.80	78.63	+ 0.12	0.62
Worldwide	154.30	164.40†		1.22
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	88.21	93.87	+ 0.01	
Amer Smlr Cos	125.00	132.60	- 0.60	
Convertibles	52.87	56.54	- 0.04	5.76
Eastern	242.00	261.40	+ 1.00	0.10
Emrg Income	88.16	88.40†	+ 0.27	4.00
Eurogrpn Growth	286.40	303.90†	+ 0.70	0.80
Europe	210.00	223.50	- 0.20	0.20
German Growth	73.58	78.05	- 0.14	0.50
Global Bnfit	68.55	63.90†	- 0.04	6.20
Global Growth	115.90	123.50	- 0.10	
Japan Growth	186.60	198.00	- 1.80	
Japan Smlr	158.30	166.30	- 1.50	
Korea Trust	70.40	77.71	- 1.26	
Portfolio	120.50	129.50†	- 0.10	1.80
(Accum Units)	222.30	236.30	- 0.10	1.80
UK Growth	78.54	83.35	+ 0.10	2.20
UK Smaller Cos	79.69	85.27	- 0.04	1.10
Select Managers	69.83	74.75	- 0.04	1.10
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3000				
Intl Sterl Port Inc	69.83	74.91†		
Special Opptn Inc	58.19	53.36†	..	..
For Bowin Dolphin see GEM Dolphin				
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 221 6820				
Balanced Growth	98.61	104.35	+ 0.17	1.97
(Accum Units)	110.85	117.30	+ 0.19	1.97
Smaller Cos	94.99	100.52	- 0.19	1.28
Higher Yield #	61.79	64.22†	- 0.02	4.78
American Gth Inc	68.90	72.91†	+ 0.35	
European Growth	129.48	137.01	+ 0.04	
(Accum Units)	130.03	138.71	+ 0.04	
Global Bond Inc #	35.14	37.99	+ 0.06	7.61
Mngd Portfo Inc	39.15	41.41	- 0.03	1.72
(Accum Units)	39.71	42.00	- 0.05	1.72
Int Spec Opps	104.71	110.80	- 0.07	
Pacific Gth	112.70	119.25	- 0.01	
Formerly LMS				
Gth Balanced #	69.52	73.56	+ 0.03	3.73
(Accum Units) #	71.19	75.33	+ 0.03	3.73
Japan	64.98	68.18†	- 0.08	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	92.60	94.48†	+ 0.44	7.48
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	84.96	85.80	+ 0.22	6.22
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 832 5060				
Environ	145.60	154.90	..	1.81
Uk Growth	155.80	165.30†	+ 0.20	2.56
Uk Income	125.60	133.80	+ 0.10	4.63
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01707 851 122				
Can Gen Dist	175.10	185.70†	+ 0.16	2.13
-do- Income Dist	104.80	111.10	- 0.20	4.50
(Accum Units)	316.20	335.20	- 0.70	4.50
Can & Fed Int	38.57	40.89†	+ 0.40	6.65
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 236 5685 Enq 0161 236 5685 Dlg 0161 236 5982				
American & Gen	147.10	156.55	- 0.93	
European Inc	74.75	78.11	+ 0.26	0.60
Smaller Cos (4-11)	76.08	80.94	- 0.15	2.09
Growth	380.30	415.30†	-	2.65
Income & Growth	378.20	402.40†	+ 2.90	4.19
(Accum Units)	539.70	574.30	+ 4.00	4.19
Japan & Gen	64.15	68.62	- 1.36	
Master Portfolio	195.60	198.50†	+ 4.00	2.09
(Accum Units)	2114.50	1118.71	+ 5.00	2.09
Special Sits	89.25	94.55†	+ 0.07	2.53
High Yield	112.20	112.64	+ 1.00	4.67
For Capital House see Menhet				
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	78.58	83.62	....	2.52
Assdtan Portfolio	66.80	94.62	....	1.23
European Portfolio	93.56	99.61	..	0.78
Japanese Portfolio	58.39	61.90†	- 0.06	
Pacific Portfolio	126.18	133.80	- 0.67	0.96
Uk Inc & Growth	71.97	77.18	..	3.45
Utility & Bond	53.49	54.06	..	7.02

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CENT BD OF FR OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 828 1815				
Inv Fund	627.75	633.45		4.88
Fxd in Sec	147.85	148.70		9.78
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0171 332 5000				
UK General Tst	59.20	63.10†	+ 0.23	3.15
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
0171 588 1815				
Inc	648.67	696.57		4.96
Accum	1742.31	1856.58		
Fixed Int Inc	133.29	139.42		9.63
Fixed Int Acc	187.63	187.85		
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 637 7667				
Intl Growth	109.35	119.33		
Intl Income	89.55	107.53		3.58
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 497 5966				
Dechmont Intl	74.21	78.79		1.54
Black Rock Tecr	26.29	29.17	- 0.72	
Accss Ethical Tst	145.48	153.14		0.73
City Fin Assets	63.74	67.81		1.52
City Fin Americs	63.34	67.13		
City Fin Intl	70.80	74.53		0.97
City Fin Japan	145.49	153.15		
Fiturs Hse Cap	263.74	281.68†		1.75
Pfunt Hse Inc	187.46	198.38		6.25
Saddles Wntr Opp	114.37	121.67		0.16
Fiumed Ccs Gth	127.48	135.53	- 2.28	
Fiumeast Inc	138.42	148.37	- 2.75	
City Fin Pfio Inc	51.06	54.32	- 0.52	4.44
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 6771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	50.66	53.96	+ 0.12	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Cash	55.45	59.38		0.47
Aztec Merger Cash	34.13	36.56		0.49
Dragon Growth	81.71	85.89		0.49
Equity High Inc	77.88	82.85		4.26
(Accum Units)	104.72	111.40		4.26
European Cash	48.72	51.88		0.97
Exempt	95.95	98.83		
General Equity	78.19	82.96		2.83
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	83.14	84.98		8.51
Japan Growth	47.39	50.47		
Pedigree Cash	47.25	50.27		2.84
Pref Sht Cos Inc	36.55	38.37		1.41
(Accum Units)	79.66	81.56		1.41
Retirement Inc #	54.34	55.98		7.46
Special Sits	35.48	37.74		2.11
Uk & Overseas	44.87	47.73		1.50
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 838 000				
Capital	82.97	87.34†	+ 0.27	2.35
Income	58.69	61.84†	+ 0.23	4.34
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
01481 685 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPF FUNDS)				
Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	147.66	157.30	+ 0.53	6.08
Fixed & Convertible	36.52	40.99†	+ 0.03	7.50
Monthly Inc Flio	47.17	50.18	+ 0.09	6.93
Preference Share	46.12	49.05†	+ 0.05	7.53
Authorised Funds:				
High Yield	115.30	122.76†	+ 0.48	7.59
Managed Fund	63.76	67.83	+ 0.28	3.11
UK Growth Funds:				
Smaller Cos	35.96	38.26	- 0.03	1.77
(Accum Units)	41.14	43.77	- 0.03	1.77
Uk & General	72.87	77.52	+ 0.49	2.86
(Accum Units)	91.20	97.02	+ 0.51	2.86
Uk Growth	133.05	141.54	+ 0.45	2.41
International Growth Funds:				
Europe Growth	182.57	194.65	+ 0.64	0.25
Far Eastern Gtth	116.56	124.00	- 0.49	
Global Bond	75.88	80.57	- 0.11	6.29
Japan Growth	187.56	114.43	- 1.29	
North Amer Gth	180.25	170.59	- 0.36	
Oriental Growth	69.20	73.62	+ 0.01	
Worldwide Growth	60.82	64.78	- 0.20	0.08
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPF FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.98	92.98	+ 0.01	5.80
Homesfutes Fund	73.10	77.89†	+ 0.25	1.94
Dollar Fund	117.52	125.07†	+ 0.30	2.58
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD				
01-538 744 840				
Growth Inc	54.17	57.62†	+ 0.20	3.30
(Accum Units)	58.66	62.40	+ 0.22	3.30
High Income	31.86	33.89	+ 0.13	4.98
Japan	32.49	34.56	- 0.43	
Smaller Cos Inc	28.38	30.19	- 0.13	2.70
Smaller Cos	30.86	31.97	- 0.02	2.70
North American	31.68	33.70	- 0.10	0.70
European	35.68	37.95	+ 0.10	0.70
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent Ut	28.80	30.91†	- 0.43	3.59
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	139.50	139.80	- 0.19	2.15
Income	94.55	98.68†	- 0.34	5.36
European	58.56	62.30	+ 0.37	1.11
Recovery	145.20	154.50	+ 0.20	1.96
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	773.81	786.00		3.98
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 699 370				
Fellowship Tst	68.80	73.19	+ 0.19	1.35
Income #	221.80	236.70	+ 0.40	4.93
(Accum Units) #	545.80	580.40	+ 0.80	4.93
Smaller Cos	147.70	157.10	+ 0.10	0.62
(Accum Units)	180.50	192.00	+ 0.10	0.62
Inv Portfolio	73.36	77.97†	+ 0.08	1.54
High Inc Port #	84.06	88.14	+ 0.29	5.09
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 418 0177				
Euro Small Cos	£14.85	£15.32	- 19.40	..
Japan Small Cos	£11.46	£11.89	- 16.60	..
UK Small Cos	£16.76	£17.51†	- 7.60	..
US Small Cos	£15.46	£15.98	- 33.70	..
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 6818				
Disc Inc	191.50	202.60	..	3.67
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01131 315 2500				
European Gwth	265.00	280.20	+ 1.50	1.00
New Asia	191.00	203.50	+ 0.30	0.17
Japan Growth	110.30	117.50	- 1.30	
Jap Smlr Co	448.40	474.50	- 3.30	
Nth Amer	255.70	271.20	+ 0.30	0.86
Skilled Aslo Pac Nr	108.10	114.20		0.39
UK Inc & Gwth	186.80	210.20	+ 0.20	3.16
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	129.70	138.00	+ 0.20	1.94
UK High Inc Inc	138.00	147.00	....	4.87
(Accum Units)	177.80	189.30	....	4.87
UK Pref & F Inc	93.00	99.33	+ 0.40	5.28
Emergmnt Opps	77.28	82.85	- 0.30	1.13
UK Smlr Cos #	47.60	50.00	....	
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 080 525				
Americian	118.50	125.90	+ 0.30	1.39
Commodities #	19.44	20.65	+ 0.03	6.78
Equity Income #	117.70	125.10	+ 0.60	4.24
Eurofund	83.26	85.54	+ 0.26	0.44
Far Eastern	48.70	43.45	+ 0.29	0.01
Growth & Inc #	217.40	231.00†	+ 1.20	3.33
High Dist #	143.90	152.90	+ 0.60	4.91
International	351.80	373.80	- 0.80	0.13
Int Dep Inc	97.21	99.10	- 0.30	2.95
Latin American	24.49	26.02	+ 0.34	
Pacific	72.50	77.45	+ 0.04	
Preference Share	21.77	23.13†	+ 0.05	7.13
Tokyo	200.60	213.10	- 2.60	
Uk Smaller Cos	309.10	322.20	+ 0.40	1.24
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 6242				
Elcon Trust	201.20	214.74	+ 5.28	1.01
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	185.10	196.80	- 3.40	1.05
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01238 435 480				
Emerging	76.80	80.32	+ 0.16	1.72
Bishop Tst	40.27	42.39†	- 0.05	1.46
Far Eastern	270.00	285.24	- 0.09	2.16
High Income	122.82	129.26	+ 0.14	5.07
Intl Growth	119.20	116.00	+ 0.16	1.37
North American	106.18	111.76	+ 0.58	1.44
Pelican	169.35	185.10	+ 0.27	3.32
Smaller Cos	83.57	88.92	+ 0.04	2.94
Special Sits	82.05	86.37	- 0.07	2.62
Tst of Inv Trsts	170.79	179.78†	+ 0.54	1.67
EVERNIMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	139.12	157.6	+ 0.26	1.49
Smaller Cos Acc	330.80	344.69	+ 0.42	1.49
Recovery	47.94	49.94	+ 0.02	1.42
Recovery Acc	48.47	50.49	- 0.02	1.42
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Balanced	102.54	114.51	+ 0.45	6.07
Capital Growth	75.83	81.10	+ 0.13	
Fd of Inv Trsts	41.36	44.12†	+ 0.05	0.68
High Income #	49.76	49.27†	+ 0.10	10.63
Income	46.62	52.65	- 0.08	
Recovery	36.54	38.88	+ 0.01	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Accel Tst	72.65	77.29†	+0.050	2.64
Family Income Tst	45.20	45.20†	+0.000	6.31
Family Trust	78.51	83.52†	- 0.01	1.52
United Charities	245.80	261.50	- 0.50	3.66
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callbox: Private Clients: 0800 414 181				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.90
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	26.35	26.44†	+ 0.05	7.75
Intl Bond	37.24	38.25†	+ 0.05	5.31
Income Funds				
High Income	23.30	24.52†		5.27
Income Plus	103.20	109.80†	+ 0.10	4.28
Amer Eq Inc	45.30	48.04†	+ 0.18	2.05
European Income	49.00	51.94†	+ 0.06	1.76
Far East Inc	58.44	62.13	- 0.28	2.69
Global Convertible	24.35	25.76	+ 0.03	3.73
Uk Dir Gnth	32.97	34.43	+ 0.03	2.03
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	57.16	60.98	+ 0.03	
Americian	231.60	245.40	- 0.30	
Amer Spec Sits	109.70	117.10	- 0.10	
Japan Smaller Cos	34.95	37.29†	- 0.55	
European	169.60	171.10	- 0.30	
European Opps	58.98	63.68	- 0.10	
Global Priv	23.17	24.66	- 0.04	1.00
UK Growth	84.74	90.11	+ 0.21	
Growth & Inc	131.50	139.98	+ 0.20	2.40
Intl PEP	34.34	36.52		
Japan Spec Sits	84.56	90.04†	- 1.29	
Japan	171.80	183.10	- 2.40	
Managed Intl	254.00	270.60	- 0.70	
Moneyfundsfax	49.20	52.32	- 0.11	
Recovery	44.86	47.70	+ 0.15	
South E Asia	133.70	142.70	- 0.49	
Special Sits	470.90	500.70	- 4.70	
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	108.29	108.29	+ 0.01	5.90
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	126.70	129.60	-	1.99
Inc Profits #	79.95	81.55†	+ 0.01	4.10
Cap Profits	131.40	133.70	+ 0.29	1.34
General Opps	114.40	116.30		3.60
Growth Inc	28.08	28.66	+ 0.08	1.65
Private Portfolio	377.20	385.60†		1.36
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq 0171 454 1454 Dlg 01277 281 010				
Hyms Foreign & Colonial				
European	110.00	116.30	+ 2.40	0.61
Emrg Asian	154.90	165.70	+ 1.50	
High Income	30.56	21.80†	+ 0.05	10.31
Ocean Income	98.30	92.30	+ 0.10	3.50
UK Growth	99.50	106.00†	+ 0.20	1.88
UK Income	99.46	106.00	+ 0.40	3.95
US Smaller Cos	287.00	307.00	- 0.90	0.12

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
01271 467 0866				
High Inc Exty	44.77	47.66	+ 0.11	3.46
-do- Inv Tst Inc	71.66	74.75	+ 0.03	4.42
Intl Growth	66.22	69.83		1.32
Investment Trust	84.32	89.68	+ 0.12	
UK Smaller Cos	76.17	80.09†	+ 0.07	1.12
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 374 4100				
American Growth	53.68	57.34	- 0.16	
(Accum Units)	53.68	57.34	- 0.16	
Japan Smlr Cos	462.00	494.10	- 3.20	
(Accum Units)	472.00	504.80	- 3.20	
Capital Tst	286.60	306.50		1.61
(Accum Units)	469.30	455.30		1.61
Cpnd Smlr Cos	57.61	61.75	+ 0.07	0.50
(Accum Units)	60.60	64.94	+ 0.08	0.50
Cornerstone	115.10	126.10	+ 0.10	5.67
Income Units	249.70	258.80	+ 0.30	5.67
Emerging Markets	61.77	65.99	- 0.76	
(Accum Units)	61.88	66.04

Pressure group has no direct interest

Regina v Broadcasting Complaints Commission. Ex parte British Broadcasting Corporation

Before Mr Justice Brooke

[Judgment February 22]

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission had no jurisdiction to entertain a complaint from the National Council for One Parent Families about the Panorama programme *Babies on Benefit* shown on BBC1 television on September 20, 1993.

The council was not capable of being a person with a direct interest in the parts of the programme in which the complaints commission found the BBC had treated 1.3 million lone parents unfairly.

Mr Justice Brooke so held in the Queen's Bench Division granting the British Broadcasting Corporation a declaration to that effect on their application for judicial review of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission's adjudication on the programme.

Section 143 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 provides: "(1) ... the function of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission *shall be to* consider and adjudicate upon complaints of — (a) unjust or unfair treatment in programmes..."

Section 144 provides: "(7) The Broadcasting Complaints Commission *may refused to entertain* — (a) a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment if the person named as the person affected was not himself the subject of the treatment complained of and it *appears to the* Broadcasting Complaints Commission that he did not have a sufficiently direct interest in the subject matter of that treatment to justify the making of the complaint with him as the person affected..."

Section 150 provides: "... the person affected — (a) in relation to any such unjust or unfair treatment as is mentioned in section 143(1), means a participant in the programme in question who was the subject of that treatment or a person who, whether such a participant or not, had a direct interest in the subject-matter of the treatment..."

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Miss Heather Rogers for the BBC: Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Javan Herberg for the commission.

MR JUSTICE BROOKE said the programme dealt with single mothers under 25, the fastest growing group of lone parents. About 17 per cent of the families on the *St Mellons housing estate* outside Cardiff, were lone-parent families. One part of the estate contained a much higher concentration of lone- parent families.

The Secretary of State for Wales, Mr John Redwood, had said after visiting that part of the estate: "I was told there aren't many fathers around here. In that community people had begun to accept that babies just happened and there was no presumption in favour of two adults creating a loving family background for their children."

The speech had sparked political *debate, leading among* other things to the programme which the National Council for One Parent Families maintained had been used at the 1993 Conservative Party conference to justify government plans to deny public access to housing for all lone parents.

The council had submitted a formal complaint to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission about the programme. Ms Sue Slipman, the council's director, said that had been done because the programme had built up a false picture of lone parents by using misleading and, in one instance totally false, information.

In the council's view the programme's thesis was that women got pregnant in the expectation of state support, and its conclusion that if you took away the benefits the babies would not be born.

The council had complained because people in the government were at that time considering what to do about the growth in the numbers of lone parents and it felt the lone parents it represented would suffer materially if the record was not set straight.

The constitution and functions of the complaints commission were set out in Part V of and Schedule 13 to the Broadcasting Act 1990. Its function included considering and adjudicating upon complaints of unjust or unfair treatment in television programmes broadcast by the BBC.

It was common ground that the council was not a participant, so it only had locus standi to make a complaint if it could properly be said to be a person affected, in the sense that it had a direct interest in the subject-matter of the unjust or unfair treatment of which it complained.

The BBC had indicated that it took a full role in contesting the *complaint on its merits while* reserving the right to contend that the commission in any event had no jurisdiction to entertain it.

The complaint identified four matters which the council said were factually inaccurate and misleading and five other matters of complaint. The commission had dismissed the final complaint in the first category and the third complaint in the second category.

His Lordship set out the complaints in detail and reviewed the authorities on the proper meaning of the expression "direct interest" which indicated that the term had a personal, limited and specific nature.

He also took into account the terms of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the parliamentary and pre-parliamentary history of Part V of the 1990 Act.

There was no evidence in that material that Parliament intended to give the commission a jurisdiction broad enough to encompass complaints by national bodies concerning the treatment of hundreds of thousands of people whom it purported to represent, or that the words "direct interest" should be interpreted to have such a wide effect.

Mr Pannick had relied heavily on two cases, *R v Broadcasting Complaints Commission, Ex parte Granada Television Ltd (The Times* December 16, 1994) and *R v Broadcasting Complaints Commission, Ex parte Channel Four Television Corporation (The Times* January 4, 1995).

The first case helpfully illuminated the wide discretion which Parliament intended the commission to possess when determining questions which lay within its jurisdiction.

In the *Channel Four* case Mr Justice *Schiemann* had held that the concept of "direct interest" in section 150 of the 1990 Act was a broad one.

In the instant case, the commission had held, in effect as a matter of law, that the council was capable of being a person who had a direct interest in the parts of the Panorama programme in which the BBC was said to have treated 1.3 million lone parents unfairly. It had gone on to find as a matter of fact, or mixed law and fact, that it was such a person.

In his Lordship's judgment, the commission had misdirected itself *in law. The council's interest* in the subject matter of the allegedly unfair treatment was palpably an indirect interest.

It could, of course, have been expressly authorised by any of the *lone parents represented on the* programme to complain on their behalf, and, of course, they individually had the necessary direct interest to complain in their own right. But that was not the way the council had put itself forward and the commission was wrong in law to entertain the complaint.

If Parliament wished to give interest groups locus standi to make complaints on behalf of identifiable individuals or groups of individuals in circumstances where their interest was only an indirect one, then in any amendment of the legislation it might of course provide for that in express terms.

But his Lordship found it hard to conceive that any parliamentary language, consistent with this country's international obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, could embrace the legitimate bringing of complaint on behalf of over a million individuals who were unidentifiable save that they were one-parent families, other than in the most exceptional circumstances, where a breach of the criminal law would also probably be involved.

His Lordship certainly did not consider that it was Parliament's intention to permit such complaints to be brought when it enacted the statutory predecessor of the Part V of the 1990 Act.

The commission lacked jurisdiction to entertain the complaint. *There was no evidence* to indicate that the BBC had unequivocally accepted the commission's jurisdiction even if it was possible, which it was not, to confer statutory jurisdiction by consent.

Because his Lordship considered that Parliament did not intend the commission to inquire into whether a television programme treated 1.3 million people unfairly or unjustly, he could see no merit in attempting to determine whether on the alternative assumption that it did possess such jurisdiction it reached conclusions which were irrational in the *Wednesbury sense: see Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* ([1948] 1 KB 223).

He had not heard full argument on the issue, but was impressed by the care and thoughtfulness with which the commission approached its virtually impossible task and it would have been very difficult to persuade him that its judgment was perverse.

The BBC had its own internal checks and balances in relation to matters such as those canvassed in the litigation.

The Governors of the BBC regarded themselves as trustees *for the public interest*, were committed by resolution to impartiality and had authorised the publication of producers' guidelines setting out what the BBC regarded as proper editorial practices which dealt extensively with matters of fairness, balance and impartiality. It was a requirement on all programme makers to observe the guidelines.

His Lordship did not wish the judgment to be understood as meaning that those who collectively, as opposed to individually, were aggrieved by what they regard as biased, unbalanced representations of contemporary issues had no right of complaint at all.

Solicitors: Mr E. J. W. Strafford, Shepherd's Bush; Gregory Rowcliffe & Milners.

Electricity supply agreement not a contract

Norweb plc v Dixon

Before Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Dyson

[Judgment February 17]

A general agreement for the supply of electricity between a tariff customer and a public electricity supplier under the Electricity Act 1989 was *not* a contract.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal by Norweb plc by way of case stated from Manchester Justices who on April 19, 1994 had convicted the company of an offence under section 40(1) of the Administration of Justice Act 1970, as amended by sections 35, 38 and 46 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, of unlawfully harassing a debtor, Mr David Dixon.

Mr Alistair Webster for Norweb; Mrs Martha Cover for Mr Dixon.

MR JUSTICE DYSON dealt first with the general question of whether an agreement for the supply of electricity between a tariff customer and a public electricity supplier, that is, not a special agreement within the meaning of section 22 of the 1989 Act, was a contract.

His Lordship noted that there were many examples of case where the law to some extent restricted the freedom of parties to enter into a relationship, but where the relationship that resulted was a contract.

A further example was that it was also unlawful to refuse a person employment "because he is, *or is not, a member* of a trade union": see section 1(1)(a) Employment Act 1990. In all those cases, a relationship which resulted from some degree of legal compulsion was nevertheless regarded as *contractual, because* the parties still had considerable freedom to regulate its incidents.

There were, however, other cases in which a relationship created by legal compulsion was clearly *not* contractual: see, for example, *Pfizer Corporation v Ministry of Health* ([1965] AC 512) where the House of Lords had held that a patient to whom medicines were supplied under the National Health Service did not make a contract to buy them from the chemist or the Minister of Health even if he paid a subscription charge. The transaction was sui generis, the creation of statute and not a sale pursuant to a contract.

The issue in the present case was on which side of the line the relationship between tariff customer and public electricity supplier fell. In his Lordship's judgment, the legal compulsion both as to the creation of the relationship and the fixing of its terms was inconsistent with the creation of a contract.

As regards the creation of the relationship, the supplier was obliged by section 16(1) of the Electricity Act 1989 to supply if requested to do so. The exceptions from the duty to supply provided in section 17 were very limited in scope.

His Lordship rejected the submission that section 17(2)(c) gave the supplier a discretion not to supply. A supplier was excused from supplying if, the burden being on him, it was not reasonable in all the circumstances for him to be required to do so.

What was reasonable was a question of fact to be established objectively. Discretion did not come into play. Thus save in narrowly defined circumstances, if a customer requested the supply of electricity, the supplier was obliged to supply.

As for the terms of the supply, his Lordship rejected the submission that there was scope for bargaining. The tariff was fixed by *the supplier* (section 18). The supplier could require the consumer to defray any expenses reasonably incurred in supplying any electric line or plant (section 19), and to give reasonable security (section 20(1)). The *supplier* could also impose additional terms of supply (section 21).

The consumer had no bargaining power in relation to those matters. It seemed that the principal *terms* were *imposed on* the consumer by the supplier not as a result of any bargaining, but the supplier exercising the power conferred on it by the Act.

The words of section 22 of the Act provided *further support for* the view that there was no contract. That section referred to a special agreement "for the supply on such terms as may be specified in the agreement".

What was *contemplated* was a negotiated agreement to meet the particular requirements of a consumer. Section 22(3) stated that the rights and liabilities of the parties to the special agreement should be those arising under the agreement, and not those provided for by sections 16 to 21 of the Act.

Thus a clear distinction was drawn as to the source of the rights and liabilities between (i) supplies under special agreements which were governed by the terms of those agreements, and (ii) supplies to tariff customers which were governed by the Act.

That provided clear confirmation that the rights and liabilities as between tariff customers and their public electricity suppliers were governed by statute and not by contract.

In the present case, the justices were of the opinion that if there was no contract between the parties, there would be no basis in law for the supplier to recover debts owed to it.

In his Lordship's judgment they were mistaken. Paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 6 gave the supplier the power to recover any charges due to it. There was, therefore, no need to have recourse to contract. The case of *Willmore and Another v South Eastern Electricity Board* ([1957] 2 Lloyd's Rep 375) was correctly decided.

While the statutory obligation to supply was different from in the present case, there were no provisions of the Electricity Act 1947 relied on in *Willmore* which were materially different from the 1989 Act.

As to the contention that Norweb's supply to Mr Dixon was subject to a special agreement, his Lordship noted that section 40(1) of the 1970 Act was concerned with "money claimed ... as a debt due under a contract".

In his Lordship's opinion, the offence did not require proof of the existence and terms of a contract which had in fact been concluded between the consumer and supplier, any more than it required proof that the debt was in fact due.

What was required was proof that the supplier had made demands for payment of a debt which he claimed to be due under a contract *which he claimed to exist*. It could not have been intended that it should be an offence to claim a non-existent debt under a contract which in fact existed, but not an offence to claim a debt under a fictitious contract.

It seemed, therefore, that what the justices should have considered was the contract that Norweb claimed to exist.

However, whether the contract in question was the actual contract made between Norweb and Mr Dixon or the contract claimed by Norweb to exist between them, the justices' findings simply did not *support* any special agreement within section 22 let alone a special agreement in the terms for which Mrs Cover contended.

Indeed, the justices were of the opinion that the contract arose simply because Norweb had provided Mr Dixon with the supply in return for which he had agreed to pay.

It followed that there was no contract between Norweb and Mr Dixon, nor was the debt claimed under a contract. That was because in the absence of any findings to support a special agreement, the relationship between Norweb and Mr Dixon, both actual and claimed, could only be that of a tariff customer/ public electricity supplier which was not founded in contract.

The justices had construed "calculated" as meaning "intended" *and found* that the course of conduct embarked upon by Norweb was intentional. His Lordship held that the true meaning of "calculated to subject" in section 40(1) of the 1970 Act was "likely to subject" and not "intended to subject".

There was no reason to attach a different meaning to the words "calculated to" from that attributed to them in, *McDowell v Standard Oil Company (New Jersey)* ([1927] AC 632). The draftsman of section 40(1) could easily have used the words "intended to".

It had to be assumed that, in choosing "calculated to", Parliament was aware of the meaning attributed to them over many years. The words were not ambiguous.

His Lordship could not agree that the mischief at which the *provision was directed could be as* Mr Webster contended. There was no reason to suppose that Parliament intended to restrict the offence to cases where the putative creditor intended to cause alarm, distress or humiliation, leaving immune from prosecution those whose conduct, although not intended to do so, was likely to have such consequences.

The appeal would therefore be allowed.

Lord Justice McCowan agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Peter J. Rothwell, Manchester; Ms Angela Harding, Manchester.

Setting aside gift of property

Langton v Langton and Another

Before Mr A. W. H. Charles, QC

[Judgment November 24]

The equitable doctrine relating to unconscionable bargains did not apply to gifts the validity of which should be decided by reference to the law on actual or presumed undue influence or equitable fraud other than "unconscionable bargain".

Mr A. W. H. Charles, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, so stated in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division setting aside a transfer by way of gift by the plaintiff of his property to the defendants, his son and daughter in law.

Mr Jonathan Watt-Pringle for the plaintiff; Mr Edmund Cullen for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP found that on the facts of the case the deed of gift was procured by the actual undue influence of the defendants, alternatively on the ground of presumed undue influence, and should be set aside.

It was therefore strictly unnecessary to consider a further ground for setting aside the transaction, namely, that it was an unconscionable bargain, that is, a purchase from a poor and ignorant vendor at a considerable undervalue, where the vendor acted without independent advice, unless the purchaser satisfied the court that the transaction was fair, just and reasonable.

The law as to the setting aside of transactions for undue influence also applied to gifts and other transactions: see, for example, *Snell Principles of Equity* (29th edition (1990) p551).

Snell further stated (at p559) in relation to the equitable doctrine of unconscionable bargains "A fortiori, the jurisdiction must extend to the setting aside of gifts." With *some diffidence, his Lordship* disagreed.

If the doctrine applied to gifts it would mean that in the case of all gifts by poor and ignorant persons without independent legal advice the onus of proving that *the gift* was fair, just and reasonable would be placed upon the recipient.

In his Lordship's judgment, that would be a surprising result and one that did not fit readily with (i) the classification of undue influence in *Barclays Bank v O'Brien* ([1994] 1 AC 180) which related to gifts and other transactions and (ii) *Allcard v Skinner* ((1887) 36 Ch D 145) in relation to gifts, cited with approval in *National Westminster Bank v Morgan* ([1985] AC 686, 705-706).

Further, the description "fair, just and reasonable" was a phrase that obviously applied to bargains but not to gifts. In deciding whether a gift was unconscionable, equity would, as it did in the undue influence cases, look to whether the donor made it of his own free will and thus to whether the circumstances in which the gift was made rather than the gift itself, were fair just and reasonable.

In his Lordship's judgment, the *rationale behind the development* of the doctrine of unconscionable bargains did not apply to a gift which was a different type of disposition and one where the donor was by definition not seeking a *return*.

Solicitors: Griffin Smith, Brighton; Farrington & Whiting, Brighton.

Prison officer's wife on jury

Regina v Wilson
Regina v Sprason

Before Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Hooper

[Judgment February 16]

Where the wife of a prison officer employed at the prison where the defendants were held on remand served on the jury at their trial there was a real danger of bias.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by Leonard Miller Wilson and David William Sprason against their convictions in May 1994 at Exeter Crown Court (Judge Neville and a jury) of robbery for which they were sentenced to nine and eight years imprisonment respectively.

Mr Robert Juckes, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Wilson; Mr Christopher *Millington*, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Sprason; Mr Geoffrey Mercer for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellants were arrested and held on remand at Exeter prison pending their trial on a charge of robbery. A Mr Roberts, a prison officer employed at the prison for over 20 years, was catering officer and came into close contact with Sprason and Wilson during the remand period while each was employed in the kitchen of the prison.

Mr Roberts' wife received a summons for jury service and returned the form asking to be excused attendance on the basis that her husband was a serving prison officer at Exeter prison.

She received a reply signed not by the chief clerk of Exeter Crown Court but on his behalf which stated that the official was unable to excuse her and requiring her to attend. That letter pointed out that she could appeal against that decision but Mrs Roberts did not avail herself of that procedure and in due course was called to serve on the jury in the trial of the two appellants.

Those facts did not come to light until the trial had concluded and the appellants had been convicted. On appeal it was submitted that there was a real danger arising from the relationship of Mr and Mrs Roberts that in carrying out the duties of a juror Mrs Roberts might either consciously or unconsciously have been guilty of bias.

The court was referred to *R v Gough* ([1993] AC 646, 670) where Lord Goff of Chieveley had said: "Finally, for the avoidance of doubt, I prefer to state the test in terms of real danger rather than real likelihood, to ensure that the court is thinking in terms of possibility rather than probability of bias."

Lord Woolf had said (at p672): "Whether it is a judge, a member of the jury ... who is alleged to be biased, the courts do not regard it as being desirable or useful to inquire into the individual's state of mind. It is not desirable because the courts have long recognised that bias operates in such an insidious manner that the person alleged to be biased may be quite unconscious of its effect.

"It is because the court in the majority of cases does not inquire whether actual bias exists that the maxim that justice must not only be done but seen to be done applies."

Those last observations of Lord Woolf appeared to their Lordships to apply to the situation in the appeal.

In the court's judgment it was a great pity that Mrs Roberts was *not excused attendance for jury service* because what happened here ought at least to have been within the contemplation of those at the crown court. Exeter was a comparatively small community and the chance that such a thing might happen was not a remote one. It was to be hoped that that situation would never occur again.

The court took the view that there was a real danger of bias in *this case*. Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed, the conviction quashed and a retrial ordered.

Solicitors: CPS, Exeter.

Clause effective

Mangistaumunaigaz Oil Production Association v United World Trading Inc

"Arbitration, if any, by ICC rules in London" constituted a valid, effective and binding agreement to arbitrate.

Mr Justice Potter so held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 21, when granting the plaintiff, a state-owned enterprise of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the declaration it sought, namely that a contract made between, inter alios, the plaintiff and the defendant, a corporation incorporated under the laws of Colorado, USA, incorporated a valid, effective and binding agreement to arbitrate.

HIS LORDSHIP said the commercial sense of an agreement of that kind, and the presumed contractual intention of the parties, could best be effected either by treating *the words "if any" as* surplusage, or as being an abbreviation for the words "if any dispute arises".

Wide discretion to award interim damages

Crimpfil Ltd v Barclays Bank plc

The discretion given to a judge by Order 29, rule 11 of the Rules of the *Supreme Court to award a plaintiff* interim damages was an extremely wide one and the range of possible circumstances in which it might fall to be considered was almost limitless.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice Nourse and Sir Tasker Watkins) so stated on February 16 when dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Barclays Bank plc, from an award by Judge Hordern, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in April 1994, of interim damages of £1.8 million to the plaintiffs, Crimpfil Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the proceedings had arisen from a decision by Barclays Bank *in 1990 to curtail substantial* facilities which had been accorded to Crimpfil, a long-standing customer.

Shortly before the trial the bank had conceded liability for wrongful termination. The hearing to assess damages was due to take place in June.

There had been very little authority as to the basis for the exercise of the Order 29, rule 11 discretion.

But the case was one where the judge had exercised a wide discretion realistically and fairly, acting in complete accord with the rule.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Tax discrimination on non-resident EU employees unlawful

Finanzamt Köln-Altstadt v Schumacker
Case C-279/93

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges F. A. Schockweiler, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, G. F. Mancini, C. N. Kakouris, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet and G. Hirsch

Advocate General P. Léger
(Opinion November 22, 1994)

[Judgment February 14]

It was contrary to article 48 of the EEC Treaty on freedom of movement for a member state to deny to non-resident Community nationals who were employed and paid income tax there, certain tax advantages which were available to resident employees.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, inter alia, on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the Treaty by the Bundesfinanzhof (Federal Finance Court), Germany.

In Germany, tax on income from employment was in general deducted at source by the employer and paid to the tax administration.

Employed persons who had their permanent residence or usual abode in Germany benefited under German law from the following tax advantages:

1 If they were married, and so came within tax category III, the spouses' total income was aggregated, notionally attributed to each spouse as to 50 per cent and taxed accordingly.

2 *There was applicable to them a* procedure of annual tax adjustment whereby the employer was required to refund tax if the total of monthly deductions exceeded the amount assessable for the year as a whole, for example if wages *varied from month to month*.

3 They qualified for a procedure of tax assessment whereby it was possible to set off against income from employment losses suffered in respect of other income.

4 Their tax was assessed according to their overall ability to pay, that is, having regard to all their other income and to their personal and family circumstances such as family expenses, welfare expenses and other outgoings giving rise to tax reliefs and rebates.

Under the German law applicable at the material time, employed persons not having their permanent residence or usual abode in Germany:

A Were excluded from advantages 2 and 3, as their income tax liability was deemed to be definitively discharged by the monthly deductions at source;

B Even if they were married, came within tax category I (general tax tariff) so that they did not have advantage 1; and

C By contrast with resident taxpayers, were not entitled to deduct certain social expenses exceeding prescribed rates.

Mr Roland Schumacker lived in Belgium with his wife and children. He was employed in Germany from May 1988 to December 1989. His wife, who was unemployed, drew unemployment benefit in Belgium in 1988 only, and thereafter Mr Schumacker's wages were the sole household income. By a double taxation treaty between Belgium and Germany Mr Schumacker's wages were taxed in Germany.

Mr Schumacker sought, but was refused, *the calculation of his tax on an* equitable basis by reference to category III and a refund of the difference between the amount assessable on that basis and the amount of monthly deductions that had been made on the *basis of category 1*.

In the course of proceedings brought by him, the Bundesfinanzhof sought a ruling on the question whether article 48 restricted the right of Germany to levy tax on a national of another member state, and other related questions.

Article 48 provides: "(1) Freedom of movement for workers shall be secured within the Community...

"(2) Such freedom of movement shall entail the abolition of any discrimination based on nationality between workers of the member states as regards employment, remuneration and other conditions of work and employment..."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

Although, as Community law stood at present, direct taxation did not as such fall within the purview of the Community, the powers retained by the member states had to be exercised consistently with Community law.

The principle of equal treatment with regard to remuneration in article 48(2) would be rendered ineffective if it could be undermined by discriminatory national provisions on income tax.

It was for that reason that the Council had laid down in article 7 of Regulation EEC No 1612/68 of October 15, 1968 on the free movement of workers within the Community (OJ English Special Edition 1968 (II) p475) *the requirement* that workers who were nationals of a member state were to enjoy, in the territory of another member state, the same tax benefits as nationals working there.

The Community rules regarding equal treatment forbade not only overt discrimination by reason of nationality but also all covert forms of discrimination which, by the application of other criteria of differentiation, led in fact to *the same result: (Case 152/73) Sotgiu v Deutsche Bundespost* ([1974] ECR 153, para 11).

The national rules at issue applied irrespective of the nationality of the taxpayer, but rules of that kind, under which a distinction was drawn on the basis of residence in that non-residents were denied certain benefits which were granted to persons residing within national territory, were liable to operate mainly to the detriment of nationals of other member states; non-residents were in the majority of cases foreigners.

Tax benefits granted only to residents of a member state could therefore constitute indirect discrimination by *reason of nationality*.

It was settled law that discrimination could arise only through the application of different rules to comparable situations or the application of the same rule to different situations. In relation to direct taxes, the situations of residents and non-residents were not, as a rule, comparable.

Income received in the territory of a member state by a non-resident was in most cases only a part of his total income, which was concentrated at his place of residence, and his personal ability to pay tax, determined by reference to his aggregate income and his personal and family circumstances, was more easy to assess at the place where his personal and financial interests were centred, which in general was the place where he had his usual abode.

The situation of a resident was *different in so far as the major part* of his income was normally concentrated in the state of residence and that state generally had available the information needed to assess the taxpayer's overall ability to pay.

Accordingly, article 48 did not in principle preclude the application of rules of a member state under which a non-resident working as an employed person in that state was taxed more heavily on his income than a resident in the same employment.

The position was different, however, in a case such as the present where the non-resident received no significant income in the state of his residence and obtained the major part of his taxable income from an activity performed in the state of employment, with the result that the state of his residence was not in a position to grant him the benefits resulting from the taking into account of *his personal and family circumstances*.

In the case of a non-resident who received the major part of his income and almost all his family income in a member state other than that of his residence, discrimination arose from the *fact that his personal and family* circumstances were taken into account neither in the state of residence nor the state of employment.

The further question arose whether there was any justification for such discrimination.

An argument to the court to the effect that there was such justification by reason of the need to ensure the cohesion of the tax system could not be upheld.

Where the state of residence could not take account of the taxpayer's personal and family circumstances because the tax payable there was insufficient to enable it to do so, the Community principle of equal treatment required that, in the state of employment, such circumstances of a foreign non-resident be taken into account in the same way as those of resident nationals and that the same tax benefits be granted to him.

An argument based on administrative *difficulties in ascertaining the income* which non-residents received in their state of residence also could not be upheld.

It was finally necessary to consider whether discrimination existed at procedural level in so far as the application of the adjustment and assessment procedures was available only to resident nationals and was withheld from non-resident Community nationals.

Article 48 required equal treatment at procedural level for non-resident Community nationals and resident nationals.

Non-residents were deprived of the possibility of relying, by means of the *procedures, on certain items forming* part of the basis of assessment, for example, certain expenses, which might give rise to a partial refund of the tax deducted at source.

They could thereby be placed in a less *advantageous* position than residents as the latter were taxed in principle in such a way that all items forming part of the basis of assessment were taken into account.

Moreover, since they did not have the benefit of the procedures, non-residents who in the course of the year left their employment could not obtain reimbursement of any overpaid tax.

Although German law contained certain provisions in mitigation of those disadvantages, they were of a discretionary or equitable nature and there was no obligation on the tax administration to remedy in all cases the discrimination in connection with the procedural provisions.

There was therefore unjustified discrimination by the refusal to grant non-resident Community nationals the benefits of the procedures which were available to resident nationals.

On those grounds the European Court ruled that article 48 was to be interpreted:

1 As being capable of limiting the right of a member state to lay down conditions concerning the liability to taxation of a national of another member state and the manner in which tax was to be levied on the income received by him within its territory, since that article did not allow a member state, as regards the collection of direct taxes, to treat a national of another member state employed in the territory of the first state in the exercise of his freedom of movement less favourably than one of its own nationals in the same situation;

2 As precluding the application of rules of a member state under which a worker who was a national of, and resided in, another member state and was employed in the first state was taxed more heavily than a worker who resided in the first state and performed the same work there when, as in the present action, the national of the second state obtained his income entirely or almost exclusively from the work performed in the first state and did not receive in the second state sufficient income to be subject to taxation there in a manner enabling his personal and family circumstances to be taken into account; and

3 As precluding a provision in the legislation of a member state on direct taxation under which the benefit of procedures such as annual adjustment of deductions at source in respect of wages tax and the assessment by the administration of the tax payable on remuneration from employment was available only to residents, thereby excluding natural persons who had no permanent residence or usual abode on its territory but received income there *from employment*.



DANCE page 34
Lovers return: English National Ballet brings back Nureyev's version of Romeo and Juliet

ARTS

POP page 35
Despair is passé, fame is fab among the new breed of rock bands



THEATRE: Michael Frayn revived in Birmingham; a one-woman comedy in London; Aristophanes in Cambridge

Fiction ends in farce

Noises Off
Alexandra, Birmingham

Michael Frayn's popular comedy makes a farce from a farce. That is to say that *Noises Off* is an ingeniously engineered, scrupulously timed, door-slamming, prop-juggling, escalatingly absurd comedy.

It follows the increasingly disastrous fictional tour of a second-rate sex romp entitled *Nothing On*: all tarts, trouser-dropping, bedroom-hopping and burglars in an English country home. At curtain up, we find ourselves privy to a flailing technical rehearsal. By the end we are two months on, watching a performance of pure chaos as private cast warfare spills on to the stage: slippery sardines on the stairs, sudden understudies and frantic ad-libbing.

In other words, Frayn's is a good farce about a bad farce. Or that is the idea anyway. *Noises Off*, though playing about with the idea of a play-in-a-play, hardly has a profound thought in its head. But its witty structure made it a West End hit in 1982, starring Patricia Routledge and Paul Eddington.

The problem with Peter Wilson's current Mobil Touring Theatre production, with Michael Cashman as the put-upon director Lloyd, is that you wonder if this cast is so much better than the one they are meant to be satirising.

Cashman seems to be acting out to the audience somewhat self-consciously: a dreadful old weekly rep habit the imaginary Otstar company are, of course, hamming up for all their worth. Meanwhile Miranda Foster could be more naturalistic as Belinda, the nosy but nice luvvy cast as the slouney wife in *Nothing On*. So, too, Mark Curry seems almost as nervous as Freddie, the unhappy motivation-seeking company member he is embodying.

Maybe all this is deliberate: another teasing layer of self-reflexive art. However, you cannot laugh along with Frayn's play unless you can confidently discern the hamminess being sent up with deft professionalism. This Mobil Tour has come perilously close to an Otstar-style disaster. Foster was out of action through injury on the opening night. Millicent Martin then lost her voice, ironically playing Dotty, the actress who misplaces everything.

Martin, now back on form, is a genuine pleasure, switching neatly between Mrs Clackett the comedy char and the lovably scatty Dotty, getting in a twist with the telephone and in a pickle with those sardines. Patrick Cargill is also bumblingly funny as the whisky-swigging Selsdon, a ridiculously unreliable burglar dressed like a mime artist crossed with a garden gnome.

Wilson's *Noises Off* does get better as *Nothing On* nosedives. In Act II we see a matinee from the rear of the set. As the show is heard over the tannoy going gradually to pieces, we watch the silent skirmishes of the emotionally entangled actors as they fly in and out of those doors. It is a slickly accelerating piece of silliness. Some spectators seemed to be in stitches seeing *Nothing On* Mark III. Personally, this farce the second time round was more than enough for me.

KATE BASSETT



Millicent Martin: a genuine pleasure, in the role of Mrs Clackett the comedy char

THE Soho Theatre Company, based at the Cockpit, is in trouble, *Kate Bassett writes*. Artistic director Abigail Morris and her staff, who have dedicatedly nurtured new writing at their venue near Marylebone for several years, have learnt they were only temps after all. The company has to find a new space by the summer.

The current show — not an in-house production — is rather poor. Lisa Kotin's one-woman physical comedy from New York, in which she hams it up as a handful of secretaries and other office females, is featherweight entertainment. *Temporary Girl* has been extended to two hours since I saw it at Edinburgh a couple of years ago. More spoof silent-movie footage is projected between scenes and the second half now follows the labour force after they are fired at the Christmas party. But, despite the more developed story line, there is still no real pathos or profundity.

Kotin is a character actress and her characters are not exactly sophisticated. As Pearl deCecco, the long-serving PA, Kotin hobbles about in bony-kneed granny mode, like Olive Oyl past her sell-by date. Flummoxed by touch-tone switchboards and flashed at by the newfangled photocopier (a plywood box with buttons), Pearl works her lips like an aged goldfish, jaws away with an Italian-American drawl or jams another smoke in the corner of her mouth.

Playing the rich-bitch head of department Jill Hardwood, Kotin stamps around in chic stilettos, clicking her biro and sarcastically jabbing at her imagined underlings. For the main character, the permanently temping actress Jeanette, Kotin pulls on a comedy wig and scuttles around bow-legged in a scarlet suit and sneakers.

There is Jewish and female humour here. The evening also flips into the sillily fantastical as Lisa — the bimbo whose boyfriend forces her to diet — is seen on screen snogging a 6ft bar of Hershey's chocolate, or as Betty, a ballet dancer *manquée*, dusts the office as if she is fluttering around *Swan Lake*. But Kotin is not a prima donna and her humour has not matured.

Grow up, you silly girl

Temporary Girl
Cockpit, NW8



Lisa Kotin: lacking pathos or profundity

Wonderfully chirpy on the cheap

The Birds
Corn Exchange, Cambridge

RETURNING to my alma mater for a rare visit, I found that the mathemeticians had replaced the classicists as the academic elite. Barely half-a-dozen residual dodos and leftover dinosaurs were now specialising in Latin and only two were studying Greek at all. The part of me that griped at those gruelling preps and inscrutable proses did not object. But another part felt that something more than tradition had been lost.

That part was happy to find the triennial Cambridge Greek play ebulliently alive after 110 years. The student cast clearly do not think Aristophanes a boring old fart who wrote clunky old comedies about an impossibly antique Athens. They are fluent and energetic, if not always loud enough for the vaulty Corn Exchange, and exude anachronistic delight in speaking some of the liveliest lines ever written.

It is often assumed that the costumes for *The Birds*, which was first staged in 414 BC, must have been spectacular. After all, the play concerns two oppressed Athenians who persuade flamingos, hoopoes, partridges and winged creatures galore to join them in declaring UDI in the sky. But it hardly helps a director now, for university budgets do not run to creating gaudy Utopias. That may be why Dictynna Hood and her designer, Lorna Marshall, have gone for a rough-theatre approach.

This has its odd aspects. The Athenian refugees, Jon Skeet's Peisetairos and Khevyn Raj Limbajee's Euelpides, look almost more birdlike than the birds themselves. One sports a half-mask, itself halfway between Darth Vader and a black parrot. The other appears to be a crow with Richard III hair, a ratty red dressing gown, and a tendency to caw and squawk. But in the chorus I variously spotted a Kafka clerk, a tramp from Godot, a dishevelled waiter, a cabaret girl from 1930s Berlin, a silent-movie comic and a bride in her wedding dress. They are a bleak, tacky and not very feathery lot.

The choreography can be monotonous, too. There is a limit to the variety of tripping, jerking and hopping that cooing, clucking students can assay. But the commitment never flags, and fun is seldom far away. This Cloudcuckooland is intermittently invaded by the butts of Aristophanes's satire, among them a phoney soothsayer, a snarling shyster lawyer with a black plastic head and a succession of gods irked by the birds' interception of their blood sacrifices. That means opportunities for the cast to double, treble, or more.

Could the transformations be more inventive? Sometimes. But when the excellent Limbajee becomes a grumpy Hercules or a burly Iris in silver drag and lets Aristophanes's verse rip, you know for sure that Greek is not a dead language yet.

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CBSO/Rattle
Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Sir Simon Rattle: restrained intensity in Stravinsky

However little Stravinsky's *Orpheus* ballet score has to do with the 1940s — it seems to have been written in super-Olympian detachment from anything to do with the real life of the decade in which it originated — it made a sublime start to another stage in the procession Towards the Millennium. So pure in style as to make the same composer's *Oedipus Rex* sound like songs-from-the-shows and his *Apollo* like a ted-dance, it represents the height of neo-classical aspiration.

At the beginning of their concert in Symphony Hall, Stravinsky's *Orpheus* inspired in Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra a performance of equivalent objectivity. Neo-classicism (or, more properly in this case, neo-baroque) does not exclude the emotional or even the sensational: it is a matter of proportion.

The two Airs de Danse — the first with a most elegantly played violin solo, the second with a lovely counterpoint of two oboes — were peculiarly moving in their rueful beauty; the sudden and deathly silence in the interweaving pas de deux for Orpheus and Eurydice was shockingly dramatic: the harp's simple echoes of Orpheus's lyre cut into the final fugue with disconcerting effect. To say that it was a restrained interpretation would be to underestimate its intensity, but there was no hint of exaggeration or specially expressive effort.

It seemed unlikely that the concert would continue at that level of performance and, in fact, it did not. The score of Messiaen's *Trois Petites Liturgies de la Présence Divine* — written at the very end of the war, between his two greatest achievements, the *Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps and the Turangalila Symphony* — presents a considerable problem in its mainly unison writing for women's voices: particularly if they are not fluent in French, as the sopranos and altos of the CBSO Choir apparently are not, it is difficult to produce a clear and focused vocal line.

However idiomatically phrased the solo piano (Paul Crossley) and however discreetly coloured the ondes Martenot (Cynthia Miller), the vocal line carrying Messiaen's own devotional words is the very centre of the texture and the whole point of the piece.

Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra has its problems too. Simon Rattle's answer to the awkwardly extended construction of the last movement, was to race through it at high speed. Impressive as a demonstration of orchestral fluency, this was not a convincing conclusion to a performance which had promised much.

GERALD LARNER

Cooking with gas

Marty Grosz
Burgh House, NW3

HEARD the one about Edward Elgar going fig picking in Smyrna? Or the one about a 12-year-old Paul Newman winning an essay competition run by the American Legion? Ever been offered a ready-cooked omelette as a reward for identifying the seldom heard introduction to *Ain't Misbehavin'*? If the answer to all these questions is no, then it is a fair bet you have never attended a concert by singer/guitarist Marty Grosz.

In many ways, the 64-year-old Berlin-born American is a brave, unashamed anachronism. In an age bristling with rapid-fire guitar solos, he plays solid — but surprisingly dextrous — rhythm guitar, picking out tasteful single-note lines only very occasionally. Instead of mumbling the odd graceless announcement, or ignoring the audience altogether, he makes it his first priority to involve them from the off, warming them up with a selection of jazz chestnuts — instructing an imaginary band: "Don't tune up, fellas, it'll sound like more men" — and following up with a string of increasingly surreal monologues on subjects ranging from Frankenstein to *cordon bleu* cookery.

Grosz is at his most anachronistic, however, in the choice and delivery of his material. Taking as his premise the well worn — but nonetheless true — line, "they don't write 'em like that any more," he packs his show with well-crafted songs from the 1930s and 1940s, written by the likes of Victor Young, Frank Loesser, Fats Waller, Sammy Fain and Walter Donaldson. And he delivers them humorously but respectfully, gently satirising jazz-song conventions in a manner reminiscent of Loudon Wainwright III's affectionate send-ups of folk and country and western.

True, his task in this particular concert was made a little easier by the intimacy of the venue — about 70 locals in a relaxed Sunday mood cannot be the most difficult audience Grosz has ever had to win over — but there was no mistaking either his genuine enthusiasm for the lesser-known tunes in his Fats Waller medley or his unreserved and infectious admiration for the sheer cleverness of songs such as *I Wish I Were Twins* and *When I Take My Sugar to Tea*.

By the time he really got down to crowd pleasing, by singing *The English Blues* — a selection of the most celebrated earthy blues lines sung in the manner of a stereotypically inhibited Englishman — his audience, to a man and woman, were already as pleased as any performer has a right to expect.

CHRIS PARKER

LONDON

CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN: Hurry, hurry to see David Pountney's production of Janáček's wild-life opera. Lesley Garrett is the Vixen, Nicholas Folwell the Forester and Sara Fulgoni the Fox, with a full complement of woodland extras played by children. Stuart Hoppe directs the revival, designs by Maria Bjornson; Stephen Barlow conducts. **Coliseum**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tomorrow, 7.30pm Ⓢ

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Phyllida Lloyd directs Richard Wilson, John Alderton and Debra Gillett in Orton's farcical Freudian nightmare. Famously booed at its 1969 premiere: now a classic. **National** (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Mar 2. Ⓢ

MUSIC AT ST JOHN'S: The London College of Music Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Choral Society join forces tonight for a programme of Copland, Humperdinck, Puccini, Prokofiev, Ie Fleming and Mozart, all in aid of Cruse Bereavement Care and Winged Fellowship Trust. On Sunday, one of Britain's greatest tenors, **Alberto Remedios**, celebrates his 60th birthday and 40 years of a most distinguished career. **St John's**, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight and Sun, 7.30pm.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

PHOTOS BY ANDERSON & LOW: A series of platinum-palladium prints, intended as a set of images based on classical themes, is now on view. Anderson and Low were among the first three photographers ever to have work accepted for exhibition by the Royal Academy of Arts and this particular series has toured to great acclaim in New York and Chicago. **Roy Miles Gallery**, Bruton Street, W1 (0171-495 4747). Until Feb 28.

ELSEWHERE

MANCHESTER: Human butterflies, exotic animals and flying bellows are among the subjects in The Grotesque: Ornamental Prints from the British Museum. A real Alice-In-Wonderland appeal for an exhibition that traces the development of the flights of fantasy that eventually inspired the Surrealists. A South Bank Centre touring exhibition. **Whitworth Art Gallery**, University of Manchester, Oxford Road (0161-273 4865). Tomorrow until Apr 8. Ⓢ

BIRMINGHAM: Birmingham Jazz and Dutch pianist Michiel Braam team up to honour Lennie Tristano, as part of the Towards the Millennium festival. Over at Symphony Hall, **Alfred Brendel** continues his Beethoven sonata cycle recital series (Fri), jazz meets classical with the **Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble** partnership (Sat), and the **Warsaw Philharmonic** makes a return visit (Sun). **Midlands Arts Centre**, (0121 440 3838). Sun, 8pm. **Symphony Hall**, Broad Street Ⓢ ((212 3333). All at 8pm.

MUSIC ON THE SOUTH COAST: Violinist Tasmin Little joins Richard Hickox and the **Bournemouth SO** tonight with a programme of Britten, Bruch and Beethoven. On Sunday, Kathryn Stott performs Grieg's Piano Concerto with the **Brighton Philharmonic** and Tamás Vásáry conducts the **Bournemouth Sinfonietta** for an afternoon of traditional favourites. **Portsmouth, Guildhall** Ⓢ (01705 824355). Tonight, 7.30pm. **Brighton, Dome** Ⓢ (0273 674357). Sun, 2.45pm; **Bournemouth, Winter Gardens** Ⓢ (01202 297297). Sun, 3pm.

EDINBURGH: Suzanne Bonnar shows just what a smooth, bluesy voice can do when she follows the female jazz greats. Pianist **David Newton** shares the bill. **Queen's Hall**, Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Tonight, 8.30pm. Ⓢ

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **BROKEN GLASS:** Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production, with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester superb as the central Jewish couple. **Duke of York's**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

☐ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE.** Nigel Hawthorne plays the dilapidated Lord Ogleby and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love. **Queens**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm.

☐ ***DESIGN FOR LIVING:*** Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico join Rachel Weisz for Sean Mathias's award-winning Donmar production of Coward's ménage à trois comedy. **Gielgud**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

■ **EASTER.** Strindberg's drama of shame, self-pity, penance, clairvoyant joy in nature and the freedom of springtime. Katie Mitchell directs. **Pit**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.15pm; Sat, 2pm and 7.15pm. Ⓢ

☐ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE.** Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about being very brave when facing death. Richard Oliver directs. **Apollo**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens March 6.

☐ **INDIAN INK:** Felicity Kendal, Margaret Tyzack and Art Malik in Tom Stoppard's new play, set in unknowable India in 1930 and a Shepperton bungalow today. Peter Wood directs. **Aldwych**, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Now previewing, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 27.

☐ ***KILLER JOE:*** Utterly absorbing shock-drama by Tracy Letts where a trash-trader family virtually annihilates itself by employing a hit-man to kill their unwanted Mom. Wilson Mam directs. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

◪ **MAMA I WANT TO SING.** The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Doris Troy (who here plays her own mother). With Chaka Khan. **Cambridge**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Tue and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 8.

☐ **THE STRIP:** Phyllis Nagy's latest, set in Las Vegas where an odd bunch of characters is converging for a total eclipse. Steven Pimlott directs a large cast that includes Cheryl Campbell, Nicholas Farrell, Nicholas le Prevost. **Royal Court**, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens March 1.

◪ **THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL.** Simon McBurney's thrilling production on the loves and anguish of peasant life, for Theatre de Complicite. **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Tonight, 7.30pm; Sat, 2.30 and 8pm. Final week. Ⓢ

◪ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA:** Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive revival of Kurt Weill's opera. Tom Hollander sings Macheath; words by "Bertolt Brecht". **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

◪ **ZORRO — THE MUSICAL:** The masked swashbuckler fights wrongs, defies gravity and gives the audience a great time in a typically rumbustious Ken Hill show. **Theatre Royal**, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm; some mats in Mar 2. Ⓢ

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

LIFT TO THE SCAFFOLD: Revival of Louis Malle's first film (1957), an absorbing thriller about a murder that goes wrong. With Maurice Ronet, Jeanne Moreau and a Miles Davis jazz score. **Everyman** Ⓢ (071-435 1525)

◆ ***NATURAL BORN KILLERS*** (18): Warped lovers embark on a shooting rampage, with the media in pursuit. Wearisome excess from director Oliver Stone, with Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043). **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666). **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098). **West End** (01426 915574). **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772). **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **QUIZ SHOW** (15): Director Robert Redford reassuredly a TV scandal of the late 1950s. Fine performances (John Turturro, Ralph Fiennes, Paul Scofield), but not enough bite, or relevance. **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891). **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353). **Kensington** (01426 914666). **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098). **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366). **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332). **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE RIVER WILD** (12): Criminals imperil a family on their white water rafting holiday. Enjoyable action thriller, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Director, Curtis Hanson. **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **Empire** Ⓢ (0800 888911). **MGMtx: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772). **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031). **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705). **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

CAMILLA: Whimsical swansong for Jessica Tandy, an aged concert violinist who rejuvenates a younger woman (Bridget Fonda). Director, Deepa Mehta. **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

◆ **INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18): Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan. **MGMtx: Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148). **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031). **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332). **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONLY YOU** (PG): Lazy blend of comedy, romance and travelogue, with Robert Downey Jr and Marisa Tomei. Director, Norman Jewison. **MGMtx: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148). **Odeons: Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683). **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098). **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **RUDYARD KIPLING'S THE JUNGLE BOOK:** Muddled live-action adventures of jungle boy Mowgli. With Jason Scott Lee, Lena Headley, Cary Elwes. Director, Stephen Sommers. **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666). **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098). **West End** (01426 915574). **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SHALLOW GRAVE** (18): Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs Kerry Fox, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor. **MGMtx: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527). **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279). **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772). **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332). **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STAR TREK: GENERATIONS** (PG): Talky but acceptable film debut for the stars of television's Star Trek, The Next Generation. Patrick Stewart's Captain Picard meets William Shatner's Kirk. Director, David Carson. **Empire** (0800 888911). **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772). **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031). **Plaza** (0800 888997). **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

DANCE: **Nadine Meisner** finds Nureyev's interpretation of Shakespeare excessively literal

When lovers are just too faithful

Romeo and Juliet
Mayflower, Southampton

FEW companies enjoy the luxury of possessing two versions of a ballet, but that is one legacy left to English National Ballet. Rudolf Nureyev choreographed *Romeo and Juliet* for them in 1977. He was understandably upset when years later the then director Peter Schaufuss persuaded Ashton to mount *his* version. But Schaufuss declared he wanted both performed, and so it proved to be.

Nureyev's Romeo and Juliet needs a large cast which is perhaps why it has taken eight years for this revival by Patricia Ruanne (Nureyev's first Juliet). Since the Royal Ballet's own production by MacMillan started a run only days ago, comparisons seem inevitable. *MacMillan scores higher in* several respects, but Nureyev has the upper hand in the crowd scenes and fights. His combatants do not vapidly clickety-click swords, but wrestle with bare hands and parry and thrust their blades with frightening, venomous verisimilitude.

Dmitri Gruzdyev (ex-Kirov) made a particularly elegant swordsman as Tybalt. Riveting in his stage presence *and with spectacularly floating jumps*, he had the advantage of playing a character conceived here as fascinatingly complex: a man dangerously *implacable, yet also touchingly kind* towards Juliet.

Another strength is the broad social tapestry that spreads before us, full of vivid details such as the plague-infected beggar who suddenly drops dead. I find Ezio Frigerio's spacious, streamlined terraces and columns, though, just too sanitised, seemingly based on Renaissance architectural drawings rather than actual towns.

The criticisms first levelled at the production remain: it still lacks passion and translates Shakespeare over-literally. Act III sags under its own considerable weight, padded out with minor episodes and baroque lurches into fantasy.

Moreover, Nureyev tends, Russian-style, to express everything as dance, even scenes such as the couple's wedding where mime and stillness would have been more powerfully succinct. Perhaps that is why the pas de deux seem so passionless, because they concentrate on movement rather than emotion. In fact the lovers seem to find their ecstasy *through* the dancing, especially Juliet. Nureyev saw her as *the story's life-giving spark and makes* it clear in the first duet: it is her energy which fires up Romeo each time he subsides.

Nureyev, as recently reported, may have mused about an all-male cast, but he did consider Juliet the gutsiest character. His Juliet is brave, madcap and bubbling, yet also absolutely serious. He would, I think, have liked Lynne Charles, whose technique looked solid *rather than* pretty, but who more than compensated with trenchant, full-blooded acting.

Another guest, as Romeo, was Lienz Chang from the Cuban Ballet. Goodness, what a revelation! Firmly centred, he has a soft cat-like plasticity and wonderfully smooth spiralling turns. His first entry required him to plunge straight into a typical Nureyev solo, piled with quirky beaten steps and fussy fragmented phrases. And yet he had the control and articulation to make this legible.

Thomas Edur, not one of the stage's *great humorists, was miscast as* Mercutio. Giuseppe Picone was a handsome, effective Benvolio; and the company looked in particularly fine form.



DEE CONWAY

Freya Dominic (the Nurse), Lynne Charles (Juliet), Jane Haworth (Lady Capulet), in Nureyev's *Romeo and Juliet*, revived by ENB

OPERA: Brave student effort at an over-wordy work

Too many trees to see the polished wood

The Woodlanders
Oxford Playhouse

THE popular American composer Stephen Paulus, born in 1949, has written four operas and his fifth will be premiered in St Louis in June. His setting of James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice* was first heard there in 1982 and came to the Edinburgh Festival the following year; *The Woodlanders*, based on Hardy's novel, dates from 1985 and was given its European premiere by the Oxford University Opera Club on Wednesday.

The Woodlanders belongs to that perhaps peculiarly American genre, the "well-made opera". It is based on a proved source from another medium; its action is well-crafted (up to two and a half hours' music neatly divided into three acts of diminishing length); its tonal musical language, nearer Vaughan Williams than Britten, with a dash of Delius and wannabe Puccini, hardly sounds American. Word-setting is smoothly accomplished over an orchestra in which harp and wistful woodwind solos are prominent. It *proceeds at a natural, ambling pace* and is enormously — some would say hideously — competent.

Colin Graham's conversational libretto sounds too much like a classic serial adaptation for radio, clogged with words we do not need in the theatre, and the simple subject-matter — Giles Winterbourne's and Marty South's unrequited love, the messy eternal triangle of Grace Membury, Mrs Charmond and Dr Fitzpiers — is overloaded with circumstantial detail: there are 19 named characters, and you need an ice-pack and stiff drink to get *through the programme synopsis.*

The dangers are predictable: too often when a musical idea is launched — a soliloquy-aria, a promising quartet — *it is broken off prematurely because we* have to get back to the plot. Paulus succeeds in telling the story, but that is not what opera is primarily about. His music is content meekly to follow the action rather than propel it.

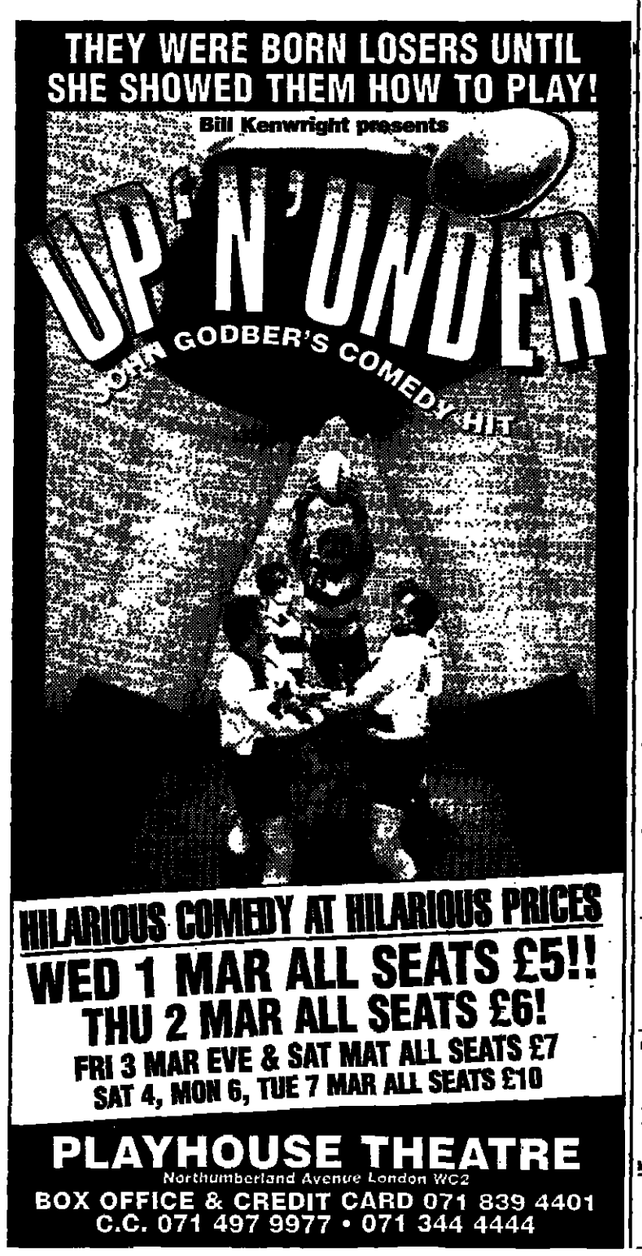
This was a formidable challenge to a university group, one from which they emerged with honour unstained. The challenge was even greater given that the female lead, Elizabeth Rodger, fell ill: she mimed Grace Melbury on stage while Jane Webster — an impressively bright, mettlesome soprano — sang from the pit. The young conductor Sarah Ioannides declined to let this faze her and kept the coolest of heads in a tautly controlled performance.

Alison Brown's production in David Palser's atmospheric decor was similarly clear-headed; the contribution of *the semi-chorus of eight Woodlanders*, who fill in details of the plot for us after the manner of butler and housemaid in old-fashioned West End comedy, was particularly praiseworthy. John Michael Flanagan sang vividly as Farer Melbury, one of the few characters with some operatic profile, and Kathryn Hide made a touching Marty South. Sarah Haigh was a game Mrs Charmond, a character who cannot *quite make up her mind if she is* Hetty Billows or Princess Eboli, Mark Milhofer (Fitzpiers) went through the motions of tenor-as-rat nicely enough, and Meurig Davies made a perhaps too passive Giles. None, honestly, could transcend their material.

RODNEY MILNES

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRE



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POP ON FRIDAY: Cheer up, it is fun to be famous . . . a beguiling side to Polly Harvey . . . the best of the Boss

Out of the blue, into the *noir*

One must have some forebodings about the whereabouts of Manic Street Preachers guitarist Richey James, after the discovery of his abandoned car near the Severn Bridge ten days ago. Before that, the 28-year-old had disappeared from a London hotel. The worst scenario, perhaps, is that he is dead; the best that he has sought solitude in parts unknown. But whatever James's fate, both he and Kurt Cobain — who killed himself last year — are symbols of a bygone era.

Like Cobain, James has never been comfortable with the trappings of fame. Over the years the pressures of the rock'n'roll lifestyle have taken a heavy toll. Far from enjoying his good fortune, he has in interviews frequently portrayed himself as a man plagued by demons.

Much the same was true of Cobain, who took the role of the reluctant rock star to its logical conclusion. His was the ultimate act of nihilism, and it brought the negative, self-destructive ethos which attached itself to the grunge generation grinding to a halt. Cobain's great rival, Eddie Vedder, the singer with Pearl Jam, has continued to peddle a fine line in melodramatic hand-wringing both in interviews and on his group's current *Vitalogy* album, while other misanthropes such as Adam Duritz of Counting Crows have likewise sold millions of records while continuing to insist that stardom is a curse and that life is basically a waste of effort.

But there are signs of a new, more upbeat mood in rock. In America, the old-fashioned, complaining grunge bands have been overtaken in recent months by a new wave of pseudo-punk groups, including Green Day, Offspring and Weezer. Their music is brash, breezy, unfailingly energetic and, for the most part, anxiety-free. And for the first time in years some American radio stations have been showing interest in a handful of British acts, one of them being Oasis.

"I think American youth has



DAVID SINCLAIR

had enough of people telling them how crap their lives are, and I think that when they listen to our records we just tell them how good their lives could be," said guitarist and songwriter Noel Gallagher, interviewed on MTV's *News At Night* last week.

"People like Eddie Vedder . . . what's the point? Why's he in a band if he's so pissed off with it? Why doesn't he go and work in a car wash or McDonald's? Being famous is great. I love it, man. You get stopped walking down the street for an autograph, that's the best feeling in the world."

Here in Britain there was evidence of a sea change in rock at this week's Brit Awards, where Oasis won in the Best British Newcomer category and Blur took away four trophies — an unprecedented feat — thanks to their hugely successful album, *Parklife*. Conveniently forgotten amid such euphoria was the disastrous performance of Blur's previous album, *Modern Life Is Rubbish*. Released in May 1993, it stayed in the chart for a total of three weeks and did not even reach the Top Ten. Yet musically it was, if anything, a better album.

Despite the huge difference in the relative success of the two albums, the journey from *Modern Life* to *Parklife* was effected by nothing more than a simple change of emphasis in the lyrics. *Modern Life* was a parable about an imaginary new town in Essex, where everything is unremittingly dour, dingy and depressing: *Parklife* is a buoyant celebration of the richness and vitality of working-class culture.

Not everything in the new-look pop garden is sweetness and light. Much has been said and written in recent weeks about the new "movement" of pop-*noir* acts (well, there are three of them to be precise) from the Bristol area. With their extraordinary fusion of trance-like melodies and slow, hip-hop beats (hence "trip-hop"), Massive Attack, Portishead (another of the British bands that are picking up airplay in America) and now Tricky (see album review below) are making music that is as miserable and introverted as anything that the grunge era produced.

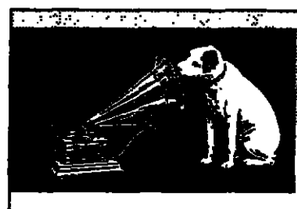
But nobody is asking us to believe that it is for real, or that any of these people is actually going through a living hell to make these albums. Quite the reverse. Portishead's videos are done in a grainy, cinematic style, and the performances of these musicians on their various records are no less of an act than if they were playing a part in a movie.

The Bristolians may make melancholy music, but the elegant sense of gloom that they purvey is light years away from the violent urgency and we-mean-it-man philosophy which permeates the music of the old guard. The last Manic Street Preachers album, *The Holy Bible*, with its lyrics written by Nicky Wire and the errant Richey James, is a non-stop litany of despair, with at least one song, *Die In The Summertime*, that reads like a suicide note. "I wanna die, die in the summertime/The hole in my life even stains the soil/My heart shrinks to barely a pulse/A tiny animal curled into a quarter circle." Perhaps the saddest thing now is how passé such an overload of angst now sounds.

So what of Richey James, a man with good looks, intelligence (three A levels and a history degree), a flourishing career as a musician and the words "Useless Generation" tattooed on his left arm? The fact is that he and his kind no longer fit in. New groups such as Gene, Marion and Menswear are fired up with self-belief, not self-loathing. The world has moved on. It may seem a harsh judgment to make, but whatever has become of him, his music and attitude are relics of an era in pop which is fading fast.



Oasis love the limelight: "Being famous is great. You get stopped walking down the street for an autograph, that's the best feeling in the world"



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Who's a pretty Polly?

NEW ALBUMS: P. J. Harvey is a thorny English rose, Springsteen is back and Tricky is, well, tricky



Polly Harvey: still as witchy as ever but more accessible

P. J. HARVEY
To Bring You My Love
(Island 524 085)
WITH her flowing, black hair, pale complexion and blood-red lips, Polly Jean Harvey could, fleetingly, be mistaken for an English rose. But if so, she is a rare variety indeed, and one whose music is more thorn than petal.

To Bring You My Love, her fourth album in just three years, sounds at times like the work of a soul cast into the outer darkness. "I've lain with the Devil/Cursed God above/Forsaken heaven/To bring you my love," she wails in a tone of increasing agitation on the spooky title track. Like most of the album, it is an unforgiving song, hung on a simple bluesy riff played by Harvey on guitar and organ.

At its most forbidding, as on the claustrophobic *I Think I'm A Mother* and the heavily distorted *Working For The Man*, Harvey's music recalls the compelling voodoo narratives that Nick Cave specialises in.

But whereas previous P. J. Harvey albums have accentuated her more acerbic qualities, here the production — by Flood, Harvey and John Parish — brings out a more beguiling performance. And a new side is revealed on *C'Mon Billy* and *Send His Love To Me*, both neat tunes driven by acoustic guitars.

Nothing can impinge on the witchy otherness that Harvey brings to her songs, but these, along with the single *Down By The Water*, are among the most accessible she has yet recorded. The signs are that her time has come.

DEL AMITRI
Twisted
(A&M 540 311)
TUNEFUL songwriters, dependable musicians and charming people, Del Amitri are Britain's most sensible rockers. *Twisted* is the latest in a series of tastefully crafted albums that have bypassed rock's fashion police and found their way directly into the homes and hearts of a surprisingly large and devoted following.

With songs that range from the lightweight, acoustic harmony pop of *Roll To Me* to the dramatic bashing of everything in sight during the extended climax of *Being Somebody Else*, it is an album of greater contrasts than in the past, although there is still a surplus of gentle, gracefully turned ballads, all hinging on the theme of loneliness.

Singer and chief songwriter Justin Currie has an eye for lyrical detail and an ear for a chorus, and while there is nothing remotely innovative in what they do, this is an album of thoughtful integrity and often poignant charm.

TRICKY
Maxinquaye
(Island 524 089)
GIVEN his geographical and musical connections with both Massive Attack and Portishead, it comes as no surprise to find young Bristolian rapper Tricky stepping straight into the full glare of the spotlight with the release of this strikingly original debut album.

Integral to the pop-*noir* sound of *Maxinquaye* is Tricky's 19-year-old accomplice, Martina, whose startlingly sexy voice drifts in and out of the ghostly backing tracks like a will o' the wisp. Throughout the album an air of unreality permeates a perpetually shifting musical landscape skilfully woven from percussion loops, spoken-word snippets, flutes, squeaks, blips and odd bits of static. The resulting sound is simultaneously edgy and lazy, inducing a sensation similar to that of mildly drugged paranoia. It is a window on another world but the glass is pretty opaque.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
Greatest Hits
(Columbia 478555)
BRUCE Springsteen's portfolio does not lend itself to a tidy Greatest Hits package, especially in this country, where many of his "greatest" songs were never hits at all. The opening track, *Born To Run* — recently judged by *The Times* and Radio One to be the best modern pop song ever — is a case in point. Its inclusion, along with other non-charting classics such as *Thunder Road*, and *Atlantic City*, means that several bona fide hits are notable by their absence, most obviously *Cover Me* and *Tougher Than The Rest*.

But, by and large, the album is a representative skim through a sprawling repertoire and includes such essential landmarks as *The River*, *Born In The USA* and *Streets Of Philadelphia*.

The bait for hardcore Springsteen buffs is four previously unreleased recordings featuring the E Street Band: *Secret Garden* a wistful, new ballad in the same vein as *Streets Of Philadelphia*; *Murder Incorporated*, a stomper of a riff, recorded in 1982; *Blood Brothers*, a rather hackneyed reverie on the theme of comradeship among musicians; and *This Hard Land*, a long-standing favourite from his live shows, finally recorded only last month.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	The Colour Of My Love	Celine Dion (Epic)
2	Parklife	Blur (Food)
3	Crocodile Shoes	Jimmy Nail (East West)
4	Maxinquaye	Tricky (Island)
5	Carry On Up The Charts	Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
6	Pan Pipe Moods	Free The Spirit (PolyGram TV)
7	Smart	Sleeper (Indolent)
8	Bizarre Fruit	M People (Deconstruction)
9	Definitely Maybe	Oasis (Creation)
10	Always & Forever	Eternal (EMI)

Compiled by MRIB



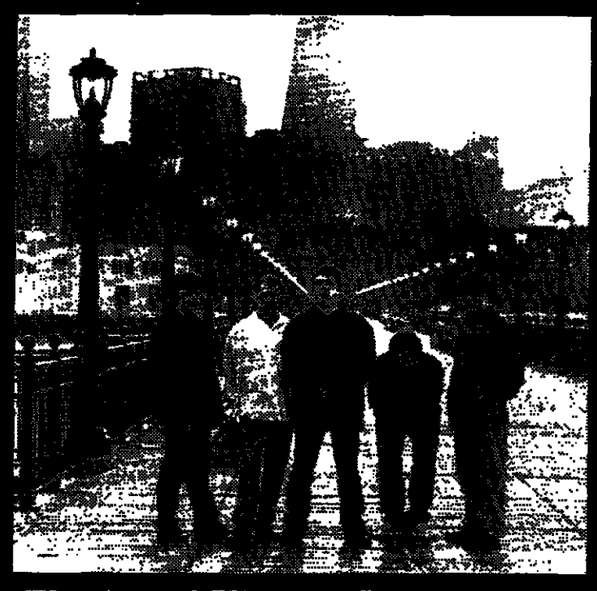
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An MBA via your PC

Anyone who cannot give up a full-time job to study can now attend lectures in a 'virtual' classroom, says Clive Couldwell

Students for an MBA course that starts next week will be logging on to it from a personal computer at home or in the office, and will be able to attend lectures by walking into a "virtual" classroom.

Organised by the Southampton Institute Business School, it will open up fresh opportunities for executives and others who have not been able to get an MBA because of the usual need to give up the security of a full-time job. Like a traditional MBA, the first intake of about 20 students will qualify by building up a series of credits or "units".

They can also add a specialism, or "pathway", to the general management elements of the course. Options include corporate management, human resource management and marketing, all of which accommodate an IT strand that teaches the student how to use technology as a tool within the business. In the coming year, more pathways will be added. Each course unit is supported by background reading, stored electronically on the institute's computer and available over the Internet.

Using a combination of computer conferencing techniques, electronic mail and groupware, students will also be able to interact with tutors and other students, run business games, simulations and participate in discussions.

Southampton Institute has built its own database of information on the Internet through which students can access a variety of services by clicking buttons on a specially prepared electronic page. They will also be able to access information from other business centres, such as the Harvard Business School and the Sloane School of Management.

Most students are expected to complete the "electronic" MBA in two years. Each year has three, 15-week terms. Southampton Institute has made the timetable as flexible as possible to accommodate foreign students plugging in from around the globe who want to fast-track through the course in 18 months. Alternatively, those wishing to take the course part-time can take much longer.

As well as trying to appeal to individuals keen to use an MBA as a way to upgrade their business skills, the intention is also that it will introduce potential business managers of the future to an electronic world of communications and commerce in which many of today's larger companies are beginning to operate.

Although in the past an MBA tag has been associated exclusively with fast-path careers and high salaries, the institute's course reflects the present wave of cultural and technical change now sweeping through most large companies.

Technology has helped to shrink the world: companies are now measured by the way they innovate and how they respond to customers. In turn, this has made the MBA more of a norm than the exception in some companies, because of the way it educates managers to adapt to this new trading environment.

"Any MBA programme in the Nineties that doesn't include the basic tools of business, such as the use of spreadsheets, basic IT and communications doesn't have the right to call itself an MBA," Professor Charles Jennings, the technical brains behind the new course, says.

Conventional management education has prepared the present generation of executives to control from the top down. However, these management structures are expected to disappear as professionals work in flexible teams, linked by a variety of technologies which supply them with the information they need to run their business.

Rapid developments taking place in information and communication technologies, particularly the expected pivotal role of the information superhighway, could underpin the innovative delivery of goods and services to customers. Many companies are also starting to wake up to the fact that the business and electronic commerce side of the Internet could represent a huge, relatively untapped market.

These companies also know they cannot exploit the opportunities this electronic market will bring unless they operate in a different way, using managers with the appropriate technology skills in their business portfolio.

● *Further details of the MBA can be obtained from: Margaret Horner, Southampton Institute Business School, East Park Terrace, Southampton SO14 OYN (01703 319821; Fax: 01703 235620).*

JULIAN HERBERT



Professor Charles Jennings says: "Any MBA programme in the Nineties should include basic IT"

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Authors:	Herts/Suffolk/Cambridge, CAD / Interleaf / Winhelp, junior-senior, £14K-22K		
Authors:	Midlands, hardware / HR systems, £16K-22K		
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INFOTECH

A summit on the superhighway starting today may discuss fears of Anglo-Saxon dominance, says **Matthew May**

Will the world speak English?

It should all be sweetness and light in Brussels from today until Sunday, as ministers from the G7 countries try to seek broad agreement on how the development of information superhighways should proceed. That, at least, is the hope of Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission and host of the summit.

Bubbling not far from the surface, however, are a set of very different concerns by each of the countries attending. Britain wants a further liberalisation of the telecommunications market to match its own efforts, while Germany wants to put pressure on the United States to lift restrictions on foreign ownership in telecommunications and the media.

Japan, on the other hand, wants to emphasise the importance of extending the benefits of an information society to the rest of Asia and developing countries.

And at the top of the American agenda is concern about market access to the EC for interactive telecommunications and other manifestations of the superhighway. This worry could be the basis of the biggest clash as France, backed by Canada, is chiefly concerned about ensuring "cultural diversity" in tomorrow's information-rich society.

It is not just American cultural dominance that the French fear. America's plan for what it calls a "global information infrastructure" is, as Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, says, "not just about new technologies, it is about connecting each to all, each person to all people, each nation to all nations".

With this comes a requirement for much of the information distributed to be in the same language. And that means, of course, that left to free-market forces the world will increasingly converse in English.

Television programmes and films can be dubbed into local languages and a few satellite TV channels already transmit such things as sport and old films with several soundtracks available in different languages. But the same does not hold true for the world of computerised communication.

> 'Connecting each to all, each person to all people'

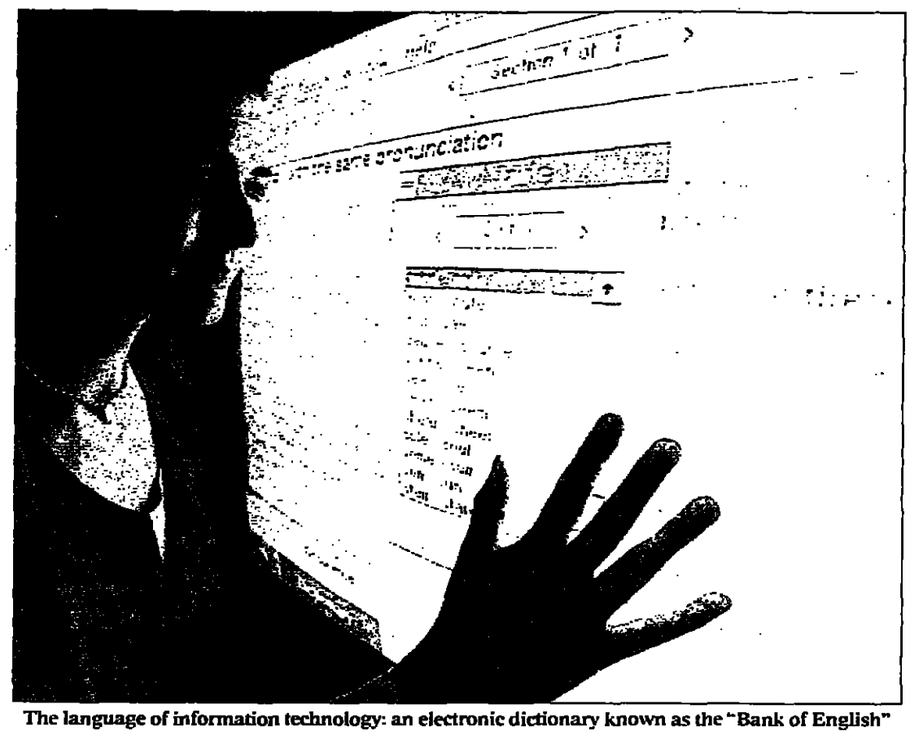
The closest thing to a global superhighway at the moment is the Internet, which has several different functions. Sending and receiving electronic mail will no doubt become as common as a telephone call. Just like any other one-to-one communication, e-mails can be sent in any language the sender and recipient agree on.

But one of the most interesting aspects of the Internet is the ability for one individual to display information to an audience of potentially millions. Those who can take advantage range from people "posting" messages in discussion groups to individuals or organisations wanting to distribute text, pictures, graphics or even computer programs for downloading. Either way, the Internet costs are minimal compared with any more traditional way of getting information in front of such a large audience.

In the area of discussion groups, an important attraction is the sharing of an interest with like-minded people all around the world. The users might be anything from scientists talking about about particle physics (sci.physics.particle) to a passion for racing bicycles (rec.bicycles.racing).

On other parts of the network students and researchers can rummage electronically through computer files on a chosen topic that may, for example, be held in a university's computer halfway across the planet.

In fact the whole secret of the Internet is that you pay only to link into a nearby computer. The international connections used when "surfing" around the world for information do not cost any more.



The language of information technology: an electronic dictionary known as the "Bank of English"

While discussion groups and other information on the Internet exist in several languages, the vast majority is in English (American, to be completely accurate).

Will other non-English speaking countries start backing France publicly when they realise how much their children will have to communicate in English if they want to stay on the superhighway? The Internet, after all, is in its infancy. Some people say that although it has millions of users, its facilities are as crude in superhighway terms as the early black and white televisions of the 1930s. There are already plans to make some of the thousands of discussion groups and other Internet information available over cable and satellite television.

There is, perhaps, one technological hope for the French and others concerned about an information society that will run largely in English. By the next century text written in English could be automatically and perfectly translated into other languages.

For the moment, such software is good enough only to prepare a "first draft", produced as an aid to speed the work of translators. And possibly the only thing more likely to upset the French than asking them to read information in English, is to translate it into bad French.

Leading article, page 19

A Window on China
Microsoft woos Peking

MICROSOFT plans to train 2,500 Chinese to become software experts, as it scrambles for people to promote its strategy in China, *Matthew May writes.*

The "Microsoft Certified Professional" programme, which is sanctioned by the Chinese electronics ministry and education commission at four of the country's big universities, aims to build a community of what the company calls "evangelists".

The joining of hands with the electronics ministry marks a remarkable reversal of fortune. A year ago, officials offended by what they saw as Microsoft's heavy-handed entry to China and keen to protect their own fledgeling software houses, blocked markets to a Chinese version of Windows.

In a strategic about-face orchestrated last summer, Microsoft began wooing Chinese software firms to help to refine Chinese Windows to Peking's satisfaction. Microsoft is spending more than £600,000 in the first year and has sent a group destined to be instructors to its American headquarters for certification.

Never say enough

KEVIN MITNICK may have been the world's most wanted computer hacker but he was far from the best, according to the computer expert who helped to catch him last week. "I don't think he's particularly good at this. He does not have technical expertise," said Tsutomu Shimomura, of the San Diego Supercomputing Centre, who helped the FBI to track him down. "His chief quality is persistence."

Screen music

VIDEO Jukebox, and a music video service known to its viewers as The Box, wants to leap from the TV screen to the computer screen. The company plans to digitise its music delivery system so that computer users can call up a video on their PC screen, eventually going online through computer networks like the Internet.

On the hop

TOAD, of Cambridge, has launched its Toad Tracking package, an £800 device designed to track and monitor the whereabouts of a vehicle seconds after it has been stolen. The system is triggered only if the thief manages to bypass an immobiliser built into the system. The owner is then contacted and, if a theft has occurred, details of the car's position are relayed to the police. Toad, which charges an annual fee of £117, is the third company to get a licence for such tracking devices.

Moving facts

SENDING information by linking a portable computer with a mobile phone has never been simple. Now, with digital networks, the process should become much easier. Orange, the mobile phone operator, is to start a data service this summer where customers will be able to send and receive electronic mail, faxes and data files. When used with a portable computer, it will run at a connection rate of 9,600 bits per second and will be compatible with software such as Lotus cc:Mail Mobile and Lotus Notes.

Awake at work

MAINTAINING concentration levels while doing boring tasks has always been a problem for both workers and employers. Mazda has developed an audio system and accompanying software which it says will perk up bored workers. The key, Mazda says, is the use of specific musical compositions that last 30 seconds and have 30-second intervals between them. The company also plans to introduce the system as an optional car stereo package, selling it as a way to reduce driver fatigue.

Here is the news

SONY says that it will jointly develop a digital electronic news production system with Oracle, the software company, that will simplify and speed up the preparation of television news.

It says the system will combine video and audio clips with wire service text on a single edit workstation. A protoype will be shown in April.

Ringing lines

IRIDIUM, the consortium planning to put satellite phones in the hands of globetrotting executives, has passed its most testing regulatory and financial hurdles. Iridium hopes its planned series of 66 low Earth-orbit satellites will attract 1.5 million customers within three years of the start of the service in 1998.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: matt __ times@delphi.com

ONLINE



THERE are a lot of decibels between a hushed whisper and a slamming door. A new digital hearing aid developed by Japan's industrial science and technology agency will be able to tell the difference between them and, having analysed the user's hearing problem, automatically adjust the volume. The aid can then be programmed to amplify specific ranges and kinds of sounds, depending on need. It is expected to go on sale next year after testing.

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P6 makes history of the Pentium

Are you one of the many people thinking of buying a PC or portable computer but never sure when is the best time?

Buy a PC now and, sure enough, in six months or a year's time it will be available far cheaper, while something far better will be on offer for what you spent. Well, nothing has changed.

Intel has announced details of its latest computer chip, for now called P6, which will go on sale this winter and is destined to ensure that within a couple of years today's popular 486 PCs will start to look like examples of industrial archaeology.

Though the P6 is initially destined for powerful desktop computers used primarily by businesses, by the end of 1996 it will be available for cheaper PCs for the home and will improve their abilty to handle video, stereo sound, animation and 3-D graphics.

The introduction follows hard on the heels of Intel's Pentium, introduced only two years ago and not yet at its expected peak. Intel, which has no choice but to step up the pace to keep ahead of growing competition, says the P6 will deliver about twice the performance of the Pentium and will be able to run more sophisticated software, including programs that recognise spoken commands.



Extra power: the P6

Intel also says that testing of the P6 has been much more involved and lengthy than testing at a comparable stage for the Pentium. A flaw discovered in the high-powered Pentium chip turned into a public relations disaster and gave the company's consumer image a beating.

The good news, if you have not just bought one, is that more price cuts have started on 486 and Pentium PCs.

MATTHEW MAY

HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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WDA

Modahl's room-mate still believes her innocent of drug-taking

Christie's female counterpart is running at a loss



David Powell learns how Britain's best woman sprinter contends with her hectic domestic schedule

WHILE Linford Christie walks out to a hero's welcome at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham tomorrow at the KP Invitation meeting, Britain's No 1 woman sprinter will be quietly bringing her winter season to a close in the 60 metres and 200 metres.

Paula Thomas was delighted for Christie that he set his first individual world record last Sunday, but less pleased for herself. "I keep thinking: 'Oh God, stop, stop, don't put more pressure on me'," Thomas said of Christie's continued *improvement at almost 35* years of age.

She laughed as she said it, yet the longer that Christie and Merlene Ottey keep going, breaking down conventional wisdom about a sprinter's peak age, the longer Thomas may feel obliged to strive to see where her limits are. At 30, she is running quicker than ever, though she *leads such a demanding life* that one would have thought retirement from athletics could not come soon enough.

Though she talks of hanging up her spikes in "two or three years", supposing she will be past her best by then, she sees Christie and Ottey still motoring and begins to wonder. "As long as I am up there, I want to keep going," she said. "You have got to be careful not to stop too early."

Thomas will never be a world or Olympic champion — her ambition is to make finals — but her dedication is in the gold medal class. Her routine includes training twice a day, most days, being a mother to Kane, her two-year-old son, and working as a sports development officer for Manchester city council.

A working day in the life of Paula Thomas goes like this: "I get up at 6.30, leave the house at 7.30, get to the nursery at 8.0 and to work by 8.30. I work until 4.0, go for Kane about 4.30, get home at 5.00, give him a bath and something to eat. I leave the house at 6.15, drive 20 minutes to my sister's or mum's, drop him off, have ten minutes to get him settled down, then go training. I finish training between 8.30 and 9.0, pick up Kane, get home about 9.30, get Kane to bed, have something to eat, have a shower and get to bed about 10.30 to 11.0."

Thomas says she does not feel 30. Forty? Fifty, perhaps? "More like 16," she said, with energy in reserve to go clubbing occasionally with her best friend and godmother to Kane, Diane Modahl.

The contrast in fortunes between Modahl and Thomas at the Commonwealth Games last summer could hardly have been more marked. Thomas got the medals, Modahl the publicity. Thomas's two bronzes, from the 100 metres and the sprint relay, would have left her with happy memories of Victoria, but Modahl's banishment, after failing a drugs' test, still *haunts her.*

"I am still getting over Diane being sent home," Thomas, Modahl's regular room-mate while on international duty, said. Both are from Manchester and the controversy has been a test of their friendship. "You do not know what to say about your training," Thomas said. "Running is her life, more so than for me. If she wants to talk about it, I listen.

"We see each other on a weekly basis. Sometimes she is really depressed, other times she is more confident. Diane is my best friend and I know her inside out. You can never vouch for anybody 100 per cent, but I am 99.9 per cent sure. If she was guilty, she *would not be so inconsolable.*"

Modahl, hard though it must be, always asks Thomas how training is going. The answer is "never better". Thomas almost retired in 1992 after giving birth — "I was going to become a mum" — but when a clubmate made a jibe that she would no longer make the Stretford AC team, she was tempted back after a six-month break.

Having missed the 1992 Olympics, she made the 1993 world championships, but only in the relay. Last year, though, she was more successful than in any of her earlier years. In Victoria, she was grateful for advice from Christie and John Regis. In the 100 metres final, she missed Kathy Cook's British record, set in 1981, by only 0.05sec, recording 11.15sec.

"I thought: 'Wow, that was close'," Thomas said. "I am not thinking of records, but I am training hard and we will see what comes next year. Hopefully, I will end 1995 as the No 1 in Britain at 100 and 200 metres again. If the record comes in the process, that would be nice. I am training harder than ever. My attitude has changed. When I was young, I did not appreciate it. I had a lull for two or three years, had Kane, and, now I am getting a second chance, I *do not want to mess up.*"

This winter she has set an indoor 200 metres best of 23.42sec, won over that distance against France and scored a 60 metres/200 metres double against Russia.

Yet as the rich get richer, the poor get poorer. Christie topped up his wealth with a five-figure bonus for his world record last weekend, while his woman opposite number runs at a loss. Thomas's successes last summer did not prevent her Japanese kit sponsor from dropping her last month.

Her income from athletics *in 1994 was £1,350. Her expen*diture on training exceeded that. "People think I must be loaded, but it does not work like that," Thomas said. "I am poor, definitely. If I was doing it for the money, I would have retired years ago." The way she is going, the chances are that Thomas will see the century out before quitting.



Thomas and her son, Kane, take some gentle exercise. Photograph: Chris Loufte



With fists clenched, Thomas goes flat out for the line in last year's European championships in Helsinki

Anglers warm to bait of an Indian summer

The heatwave of 1994, followed by a winter's rain, will influence fishing for years. In the first of two articles, **Brian Clarke** explores the probable legacy of extreme weather conditions

There is nothing like winter for getting the average angler down. For the trout angler, there is now no fishing; for the coarse angler, the season is still open but the sport is at its poorest and most rods will be in their cupboards until spring. When the rivers are in flood or the ice is crinkling outside, it can take quite a lot to lift an angler's spirits.

This year, though, for all the bleak wetness of the immediate prospect, there is every cause to smile. Coarse anglers and some trout men recently fished through a remarkable autumn. Some of the same folk are likely to see better fishing than usual in 1995. All coarse anglers are likely to have better sport overall from around 1999. The specimen men can look forward to the year 2010 and some can look beyond.

This news flows from the kind of weather that 1994 produced. Last summer was hot, the autumn was the warmest for years and November was the warmest for hundreds of years.

Fish are cold-blooded creatures and take their body temperatures from the water around them. When the water is cold, the metabolism of a given fish slows and it needs less food.

As the water warms, the warmer the fish becomes, the faster its metabolic rate and the greater the amount of food it needs. In the main, summer temperatures produce water that is conducive to fish activity and winter brings reducing activity as temperatures decline.

It is this simple relationship between water temperature and fish metabolism that produces the pattern of the typical angling year. The good fishing in spring and summer gradually falls away as winter approaches because lower temperatures equal less fish activity, which equals less need for food, which equals less fish interest in an angler's bait of fly.

And the predictions? Because the early summer was warm, all coarse fish spawned successfully and there was a mass of planktonic food for the hatching fry to eat. Because there was plenty of food, there was a phenomenal survival rate. Anyone walking the banks of rivers and lakes last summer will have seen fry shoals as dense as chain-mail in the shallows.

It is from here that the domino effect takes over. Because the autumn was warm, the aquatic weeds and insects that growing fry eat lasted longer. Because autumn was warm, the fry were kept warmer and more active and were more interested in food than usual.

One result was more fry going into winter, when it finally came, fitter and fatter than would normally have been the case. Another result was that the warm water kept the fish that eat fry — the big trout in lakes, perch, pike, zander and the like elsewhere — active and feeding as well. More of these fish also went into winter fitter and fatter than usual and more will be the bigger for it when next season comes.

Many of the fry that survived autumn will die, of course — the first winter takes a terrible toll of a year's fish recruitment — but many more will, short of catastrophe, survive and be in better shape to face whatever the future brings. From four and five years out, these maturing fish will figure increasingly in anglers' bags. Come 1999 and the millennium, catches will again, short of catastrophe, be the heavier for them.

And the year 2010? Every year-class contains individuals that have, like some of the anglers who pursue them, the capacity to grow faster and bigger than the rest. It is these fish that, in the fullness of time, become the whoppers that specimen-hunters pursue. An exceptional year-class will have within it *an exceptional number of such* fish and among these, an exceptional number of individuals that are likely to survive their full growing span.

Many of the coarse fish that specimen-hunters pursue will continue to put on weight for 12 to 15 years before a brief plateau sets in and then a rapid decline ensues. Which means that 2010 — and a few years either side — is likely to produce some corkers.

Of course, some fish live and continue to grow far longer, carp especially. Carp anglers, *like those who put their sons* down at birth for Eton, should be booking their sons in now to benefit from the class of '94. Around 2020 should be about right.

The impact of the present floods on the coming season

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 96 (Deveaux 28, Youngblood 19, Miller 18) Worthing Bears 93 (Hamled 25, Lewis 24, Cunningham 17); Manchester 86 (Robinson 22, C Johnson 20, St Kitts 17) Chester Jets 80 (B Johnson 22, Gardner 21).
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 100 Sacramento 88; Indiana 113 New Jersey 94; Milwaukee 100 Washington 92; San Antonio 105 Phoenix 100; Utah 118 LA Clippers 109; Seattle 120 Minnesota 104; Portland 107 Golden State 89; LA Lakers 112 Philadelphia 100.

BILLIARDS

WIGAN: Strachan UK professional championship: Second round: A Shandilya (India) bt M Russell (Eng) 743-622; D Joshi (India) walkover R Shar (India); R Foldvari (Aus) bt P Cavney (Eng) 553-216; S Agarwal (India) walkover A Kumar (India); G Sethi (India) walkover M Spoormans (Bel); R Williams (Eng) bt H Griffiths (Wales) 609-294; E Hughes (Ire) bt R Chapman (Eng) 435-419; M Wildman (Eng) bt A Savur (Ind) 608-375; J Murphy (Eng) bt A Poalyan (Rus) 423-310.

BOWLS

PRESTON: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships: Pairs: Quarter-final: G Smith and A Thomson (Eng) bt H Duff and D Miller (Scot) 7-2, 7-4, 7-2.

BOXING

TELFORD: European middleweight championship and World Boxing Council final eliminator: Richie Woodall (GB) bt Silvio Branco (It) rsc 9th rnd. Super-featherweight: Brian Robb (Telford) bt Andrew Smith (Nuneaton) pts. Light: Clayton Hollingsworth (Telford) bt Shabbe Edwards (Bermondsey) pts. Light-welter: Anthony Lawrence (Wolverhampton) bt Rick North (Grimsby) pts. Super-middle: Joe Calzaghe (Newbridge) bt Bobbi Jo Edwards (Manchester) pts. Cruiser: Robert Norton (Stourbridge) bt Steve Osborne (Nottingham) pts.

CYCLING

TOUR OF VALENCIA: First stage (153km): 1, F Baldato (It) 3hr 47min 53sec; 2, N Minali (It) at 1sec 3, G Lombardi (It); 4, L Jalabert (Fr); 5, M Bertoli (It); 6, E Zabel (Ger) all same time.

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION CUP: First round: Luton 4 Bristol City 1.
LIBERTADORES CUP: Group One: Penarol (Uru) 1 Independiente (Arg) 2.
Wednesday's late results
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa 4 Leicester City 4; Blackburn Rovers 2 Wimbledon 1; Leeds United 1 Everton 0; Manchester City 2 Ipswich Town 0; Norwich City 0 Manchester United 2.
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group five: Malta 0, Luxembourg 1 (in Valletta).
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Holland 0, Portugal 1 (in Eindhoven); Spain 0 Germany 0 (in Jerez).
UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: England 5 Denmark 6 (at Walsall).
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division Cup: Third round: Alfreton 2 Workington 2.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Solihull 2 Halesowen 2.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich Albion 2 Sheffield United 5. Second division: Preston 1 Blackpool 1.
SUSSEX SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-final replay: Brighton and Hove 2 Worthing 0.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon 3 Swindon 3. Second division: Cheltenham 1 Yeovil 1.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chatteris 1 Halstead 5.
SUSSEX UNIJET REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Amateur Football Alliance 4 Sussex 8.

GOLF

SYDNEY: Men's tournament: Leading first round scores (Australia unless stated): 67: Z Zorkic (US). 68: A Gilligan, T Elliott, D Fardon, M Weir (Can). 69: W Bennett (GB), G Kenny, C Jones, C Parry. 70: E Boult (NZ), M Cain, S Scahill (NZ), P Senior, D Ecob, A Stolz, L Wastle, P Tataurangi (NZ), G Joyner, D Armstrong, G Chalmers. Other British: 71: I Garbutt. 72: B Jackson.
HYATT LA MANGA CLUB, Spain: PGA European Seniors Tour: Qualifying School: First round (GB and Ireland unless stated): 71: D Simon (US). 72: M McAlister. 73: M Hoyle, M Alvarez (Sp). 74: B Browne, F Abreu (Sp), W Sauer (US). 75: G Will, H Inggs (SA). 76: A Gauld, M Vercruyce (Bel), T Coveney.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Hartford 3 Boston 2 (overtime); Buffalo 3 NY Islanders 3 (overtime); Detroit 4 Toronto 1; St Louis 4 San Jose 3, Edmonton 2 Dallas 1; Winnipeg 4 Vancouver 1.

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: World championship: British national eliminator: First day: C Bray leads J Snow 3-6, 6-5, 6-5, 6-1.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge Univ 13 Army 37; Oxford Univ 19 Penguins 45.

SQUASH

CALCUTTA: Stroh's Open: First round: P Steele (NZ) bt J Kyttanin (Fin) 15-7, 15-6, 15-4; D Jenson (Aus) bt P Johnson (Eng) 12-15, 15-7, 17-16, 15-7; S Meads (Eng) bt A Thoern (Swe) 15-12, 15-4, 15-5; S Castelyn (Bel) bt D Clare (Eng) 15-11, 11-15, 15-8, 15-4; D Presco (Eng) walkover M Zaman Gul (Pak); T Garner (Eng) bt D Webb (Eng) 15-11, 15-9, 15-13; P Whitlock (Eng) bt R Heinrich (Ger) 15-1, 15-3, 15-2, L Bull (Holl) bt F Bus (It) 15-8, 15-5, 15-4; M Cairns (Eng) bt S Leifels (Ger) 15-10, 15-4, 15-3; A Barada (Egypt) walkover A Singh (India); D Harris (Eng) walkover P Ferreira (India).

TENNIS

STUTTGART: Men's indoor tournament: First round: A Volkov (Russ) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-4, 2-3, ret; J Siemerink (Holl) bt H Skoff (Austria) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finals: E Kafelnikov (Rus) bt D Wheaton (US) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4; M Larsson (Swe)) bt T Muster (Austria) 7-5, 5-7, 6-4; M Stich (Ger) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 6-4.
PHILADELPHIA: Men's indoor tournament (US unless stated): First round: P Sampras (US) bt M Filippini (Uru) 4-6, 6-4, 7-5; R Reneberg (US) bt J Eltingh (Hol) 6-4, 6-3; P Haarhuis (Holl) bt M Washington (US) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5. Second round: A Agassi (US) bt J Tarango (US) 6-3, 6-4.
EASTBOURNE: LTA men's satellite tournament: Second round: R Matheson (GB) bt P Fredriksson (Swe) 7-6, 7-6; T Ketola (Fin) bt F Vegilo (Switz) 8-3, 6-0. B Cowan (GB) bt S Manel (Switz) 6-2, 6-4, M Navarra (It) bt L Milligan (GB) 7-6, 6-0; J Pelikan (Cz) bt T Spinks (GB) 6-2, 6-7, 6-3; T Johansson (Swe) bt P Pala (Cz) 6-4, 6-4; A Richardson (GB) bt O Kristiansson (Swe) 5-7, 7-6, 6-4; A Strambini (Switz) bt M Norman (Swe) 7-5 3-6 6-4.
NEWCASTLE: LTA women's challenger tournament: Quarter-finals: L Jetts (GB) bt M Seibold (Ger) 3-6, 6-1, 7-6, S Kleinova (Cz) bt C Papadaki (Gr) 6-3, 4-6, 7-5; S Noorlander (Holl) bt H Kelalaars (Holl) 6-3, 6-3; O Ivanova (Rus) bt S Waechtershauser (Ger) 7-6, 7-5.

SQUASH

CALCUTTA: Stroh's Open: First round: P Steele (NZ) bt J Kyttanin (Fin) 15-7, 15-6, 15-4; D Jenson (Aus) bt P Johnson (Eng) 12-15, 15-7, 17-16, 15-7; S Meads (Eng) bt A Thoern (Swe) 15-12, 15-4, 15-5; S Castelyn (Bel) bt D Clare (Eng) 15-11, 11-15, 15-8, 15-4; D Presco (Eng) walkover M Zaman Gul (Pak); T Garner (Eng) bt D Webb (Eng) 15-11, 15-9, 15-13; P Whitlock (Eng) bt R Heinrich (Ger) 15-1, 15-3, 15-2, L Bull (Holl) bt F Bus (It) 15-8, 15-5, 15-4; M Cairns (Eng) bt S Leifels (Ger) 15-10, 15-4, 15-3; A Barada (Egypt) walkover A Singh (India); D Harris (Eng) walkover P Ferreira (India).

YACHTING

AMERICA'S CUP: Louis Vuitton Cup Challenger Trials: New Zealand (R Coutts) bt Sydney '95 (S Fischer, Aus) 3min 18sec; France³ (M Pajot) bt Nippon '94 (M Namba, Japan) 2: 17; oneAustralia (J Bertrand) bt Tag Heuer Challenge (C Dickson, NZ) 3:00. Overall: New Zealand 40pt; oneAustralia 33; Tag Heuer Challenge 28; Nippon '94 18; France³ 15; Sydney '95 8; Rioja de España (P Campos, Sp) 4. Citizen Cup Defence Trials: Stars & Stripes (D Conner) bt Young America (K Mahaney) 1.33. Overall: 1, equal Young America and Stars & Stripes 21pts; America³ (L Egnot) 7.
BOC Challenge Solo round the world race (Leading positions at 08:00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Punta del Este): Class 1: Sceta Calberson (C Auguin, Fr) 851 miles; Vendee Enterprises (J van den Heede, Fr) 1,038; Hunter's Child (S Pettengil, US) 1,210; Newell South Africa (J J Provoyeur, SA) 1,364, Coyote (D Scully, US) 1,414; Thursday's Child (A Taylor, US), 2,291. Class 2: True Blue (D Adams, Aus) 1,255; Kodak (G Soldini, It), 1,378; Jinmoda 2 (C Vaughan, GB) 2,570; Newcastle Australia (A Nebauer, Aus) 2,579; Cornwall (R Dave, GB) 3,276; Shutan Dohi 2 (M Saito, Japan) 3,788; Henry Hornblower (H Mitchell, GB) 3,800.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
ANDORRA							
Soldeu	30	80	good powder	icy	snow	-3	22/2
(Great skiing with fresh snow; pistes improving)							
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	30	125	good varied	fair	fair	5	22/2
(Light covering of new snow on hard base, mostly good)							
Mayrhofen	10	80	hard varied	closed	cloud	0	18/2
(Hard snow on all pistes but skiing well)							
Obergurgl	55	130	good varied	good	fair	-3	21/2
(Hard snow but good skiing; off-piste snow crusty)							
FRANCE							
Courchevel	145	285	good varied	fair	snow	-1	22/2
(Dusting of fresh snow; mostly good skiing)							
Flaine	160	315	good powder	fair	fog	5	21/2
(10cm fresh snow; pistes excellent)							
Megève	90	250	good heavy	good	snow	1	22/2
(10cm fresh snow; lower runs soft but good)							
Val d'Isère	145	335	good varied	good	sun	4	22/2
(Still generally excellent skiing; snow forecast)							
Val Thorens	180	310	good varied	fair	snow	2	22/2
(Mixed visibility giving tricky skiing; light snowfalls)							
ITALY							
Cervinia	80	250	good varied	good	fog	2	21/2
(Pistes good but visibility poor; snow forecast)							
SWITZERLAND							
Klosters	50	170	icy varied	icy	cloud	3	18/2
(Pistes hard and icy after overnight refreeze)							
Mürren	105	200	good heavy	good	fair	3	21/2
(Poor visibility but skiing generally good)							
St Moritz	80	110	good heavy	worn	snow	-3	22/2
(Good snow on most pistes; icy and worn patches lower down)							
Verbier	40	150	good powder	good	fine	1	22/2
(Fresh snow and significant drop in temperature)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Three Bridges v East Grinstead.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Under-15 International: Northern Ireland v Wales (Windsor Park, Belfast 7.15pm) London Cup: Bedfordshire v Essex (Bedford 12pm).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Doncaster v Chester (8.0pm).
BILLIARDS: Strachan UK Championship (Wigan).
BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston Guild Hall).
REAL TENNIS: University match, Queen's Club, London.
SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (Leeds).
TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Eastbourne); LTA women's challenger tournament (Newcastle).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

As dealer you hold:

♠A J 9 4 2 ♥5
♦K Q J 3 ♣A 5 4

You open One Spade and your partner raises to Two Spades. What do you bid?

If your partner has a few well placed high cards, Four Spades will be a good contract. But strength in hearts will not be much good to you. How do you find out?

The answer is to bid Three Clubs. This is known as a **Trial Bid.** In the sequence One of a major-Two of a major, a new suit by the opener asks the resonder for *help* in that suit. In this case the opener needs the responder to hold either high cards or shortage in clubs. Notice the opener does *not* bid Three Diamonds — he does not need help in that suit.

Three possible layouts:

W	E (I)
♠A J 9 4 2	♠Q 10 6 3
♥5	♥K Q 7
♦K Q J 3	♦8 6 4
♣A 5 4	♣10 7 3
E(II)	**E (III)**
♠Q 10 6 3	♠K Q 8 7
♥10 7 3	♥A 7 3
♦8 6 4	♦10 6 4
♣K Q 7	♣10 7 3

When East holds hand I, he signs off in Three Spades over Three Clubs. He has a minimum hand and an unsuitable club holding. With II, East bids Four Spades although his hand is minimum. K Q x in clubs is good help for the opener's clubs. With hand III, East also bids Four Spades — although his club holding is unsuitable, he is maximum, and so is justified in jumping to game. With East hands II and III Four Spades is a good contract.

Here is an example from a crucial 1987 European Championship match.

Forrester	Brock
♠A 9 5 3 2	♠10 8 7 6
♥7 5	♥A 10 8 3 2
♦A K Q	♦9 7 4
♣A 9 5	♣7
1♠	2♠
3♣	4♠

Brock showed good appreciation of his values. Although he *only had four points, they were* in the form of an ace, and combined with four trumps and a singleton in the right place, he considered it enough for game. Four Spades made easily. At the other table, the Italians stopped in Two Spades.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Pan Pacific

After two rounds of the Pan Pacific Grandmaster tournament in San Francisco the lead is held by American Grandmaster Boris Gulko with 2/2. Britain's representative John Nunn started well, the Norwegian international Jon Tisdall.

White: John Nunn
Black: Jon Tisdall
Pan Pacific, San Francisco

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	c3	Nf6
3	e5	Nd5
4	Nf3	e6
5	g3	d6
6	exd6	Bxd6
7	Bg2	Nc6
8	0-0	0-0
9	d4	cxd4
10	Nxd4	Nxd4
11	Qxd4	Qc7
12	Nd2	Bc5
13	Qe4	b5
14	a4	bxa4
15	Qxa4	Bd7
16	Qc2	Rac8
17	Ne4	Bb6
18	Ng5	Nf6
19	Re1	h6
20	Bf4	Qc5
21	Be3	Qc7
22	Ne4	Nd5
23	Bxb6	axb6
24	Qb3	Rfd8
25	Rec1	Bc6
26	Rd1	Ne7
27	Rxd8+	Rxd8
28	Rd1	Rxd1+
29	Qxd1	Nf5
30	Qd3	Bd5
31	Nf6+	gxf6
32	Bxd5	Qe5
33	Be4	Nd6
34	Bf3	f5
35	Kg2	f4
36	Qa6	bxg3
37	hxg3	Qc5
38	b4	Qc7
39	Qd3	Kg7
40	Qd4+	f6
41	Qe3	Kf7
42	Bg4	Nf5
43	Bxf5	exf5
44	b5	Qb7+
45	Kg1	Qc7
46	Qxh6	Qxc3
47	Qh5+	Ke6
48	Qe8+	Kd6
49	Qd8+	Kc5
50	Qc7+	Kb4
51	Qxb6	Qe1+
52	Kh2	Qd2
53	Kh3	Qd5
54	Qc6	Qxb5
55	Qxf6	Qf1+
56	Kh4	Qxf2
57	Qd8+	Kc3
58	Kg5	Qf1
59	Qe5+	Kb3
60	Qxf5	Qg2
61	Qd3+	Ka2
62	g4	Qc6
63	Qd4	Qe6
64	Kf4	Qh6+
65	Kg3	Qg5
66	Qf4	Qd5
67	Qf2+	Ka1
68	Qf1+	Black resigns

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BERSAGLIERE
a. A French dresser
b. Red lettuce
c. A sharpshooter

DOWITCHER
a. A thingummyjig
b. A wader
c. A class of yacht

ENANTHEMA
a. Rhetorical understatement
b. An external stamen
c. An eruption

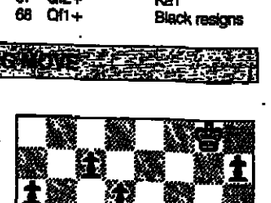
ARAPONGA
a. A gaucho's lasso
b. An unpleasant smell
c. A bell-bird

Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Lederman - Pytel, Le Havre 1977. Black's next move led to him gaining a decisive material advantage. Can you spot it?



Solution, page 42

هكذا من الاصل

Alderbrook ignites Champion scene

By Julian Muscat

IT IS a curious route from Longchamp's lawns to the wilds of Wincanton, but as befits a genuine racehorse Alderbrook applied his talents to the jumping game with a dazzling victory at the Somerset track yesterday. Kim Bailey's rising star is now as short as 6-1 for the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham.

The six-year-old's dismissal of Trying Again, who made Mysilv fight so hard for the Tote Gold Trophy two weeks ago, made for a remarkable sight. For here he was, on only his second outing over hurdles, toying with his six opponents in the Kingwell Hurdle.

It almost defied belief to see Norman Williamson restraining Alderbrook as the bay ranged up to Trying Again between the last two flights. That contest, such as it was, amounted to a brutal mismatch the moment Alderbrook uncoiled the group race speed he showed in Paris to sprint eight lengths clear on the run-in. The game can look so easy when quality is on show.

"He's been electric the three times we have schooled him," a delighted Bailey revealed in the winner's enclosure. "He has never made the semblance of a mistake at home. I trained Positive to win the Scottish Champion Hurdle but this horse is different class. The three weeks between now and the Champion Hurdle are going to pass so slowly."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: The Frog Prince
(3.20 Kempton Park)
Next best: Idiot's Lady
(2.20 Kempton Park)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Monsieur Le Cure, accompanied by the grey Sunley Bay, soon takes control in the Jim Ford Challenge Cup Chase at Wincanton yesterday

Racing is often described as the glorious uncertainty: Bailey is well placed to understand why. That he has yet to saddle a Cheltenham Festival winner is not for the want of trying. Now, he can entertain Alderbrook's Champion Hurdle prospects before turning his attention, 48 hours later, to Master Oats's Gold Cup challenge. That elusive double was last snared in 1981 by Peter Easterby, courtesy of Little Owl (Gold Cup) and Sea Pigeon (Champion Hurdle).

Certainly Alderbrook will find life a deal tougher at Cheltenham. His inexperience glowers from his record, but in his favour is his high cruising speed and superior turn of foot. And it was only three years ago that Royal Gait triumphed when a novice; just 12 months ago that Large Action finished a close third when similarly graded.

As Alderbrook advanced his Champion Hurdle case, word emerged from Ireland that Fortune And Fame had knocked a leg in a workout earlier this week. This latest setback to the injury-prone animal is giving his trainer, Dermot Weld, cause for concern. Having introduced Vintage Crop into their list at 12-1, Ladbrokes offer Fortune And Fame at 6-1 with a run.

Also on show at Wincanton was Monsieur Le Cure, who displayed an enthusiasm lacking in his previous four outings this term as he routed his Jim Ford Chase rivals by 30 lengths. This was much more like it from last season's top novice. Having jumped with dash, he sustained a remorseless gallop in ground described by his jockey, Peter Niven, as "atrocious".

Monsieur Le Cure only just made it to the start. John Edwards, whose patience has already been sorely tested by his stable star, awoke on Tuesday morning to find him hopping lame with a poisoned foot. But sterling work by Edwards's blacksmith and his staff cured the problem. As he did last season, Monsieur Le Cure is coming to the boil at just the right time. He has each-way prospects in the Gold Cup, for which William Hills offer a best-priced 12-1.

Francois Doumen will not recall fondly events of the last few days. With The Fellow ruled out of Cheltenham, the trio comprising Algan, Val D'Alene and Bog Frog, due to compete at Kempton tomorrow, was detained at Calais for six hours before crossing the Channel in rough seas.

Smart Pridwell can complete double for Pipe

HAYDOCK PARK
BBC2

2.30: Forbidden Time, a good winner at Newcastle last week, has every chance in spite of his big weight. The Len Lungo-trained horse, a course and distance winner, is perfectly at home on testing ground. Nonetheless, **Sparkling Cone** receives 16lb from Forbidden Time and that could make all the difference.

The six-year-old, trained by Martin Pipe, got behind when making early mistakes in a big field at Cheltenham last time. It may pay to excuse him that defeat. Spring Call has place prospects with his low weight. Six lengths behind Another Venture at Catterick recently, he enjoys a 20lb pull here.

3.00: As has so often happened this season, this £8,000-added conditions hurdle has attracted a poor turnout. The handicapper will be expecting Bokaro to oblige, particularly in receipt of 4lb from **Pridwell**. However, the Pipe-trained horse is on the upgrade and may be more comfortable on this heavy ground. Bokaro faded quickly on his seasonal debut at Sandown three weeks ago. He may need another race to put an edge to him.

Salwan is gradually coming to hand. Jenny Pitman's seven-year-old is probably approaching peak fitness but appears safely held by Pridwell on their recent encounter at Cheltenham.

3.30: Celtic Prince relishes the sort of stamina test offered by this type of race.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

However, his propensity for making mistakes continues to undermine him and Haydock is no place for suspect jumpers.

Although Celtic Prince has the beating of Hill Trix on recent Towcester form, **Hill Trix** gets the vote. His defeat of Lo Stregone and Dont Tell



Pipe: double hopes

The Wife was comfortably gained and he can complete a three-timer. Romany King, a big disappointment last time, would prefer better ground. The same applies to Bradwell.

Julian Muscat

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Countess Veruschka
2.30 Sparkling Cone
3.00 Bokaro
3.30 Cache Fleur
4.00 Saint Ciel
4.30 Lady Llanfair
5.00 Sky Run

Brian Beel: 4.30 Lady Llanfair.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

2.00 MOCK TURTLE NOVICES CHASE
(£4,046: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1 5/53113 COUNTESS VERUSCHKA 21 (B,S) (H Davies) K Bailey 9-11-9 ..... N Williamson (3)
2 0-04213 DANTES SUN 37 (G) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 6-11-5 ..... R Dunwoody –
3 203/3-24 PRIMITIVE SINGER 27 (F,S) (S Kitching) J Pickering 7-11-5 ..... T Eley 92
4 124030 THE BOILER WHITE 13 (F,S) (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 7-11-5 ..... D Meade –

BETTING: 6-4 Dantes Sun, 7-4 Countess Veruschka, 4-1 The Boiler White, 7-1 Primitive Singer.

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — SNOW

FORM FOCUS

COUNTESS VERUSCHKA beat Chichell's Hurst 2¼l in 5-runner novice chase at Towcester (2m 5f, heavy) penultimate start. DANTES SUN 8¼l 3rd of 11 to Tennessee King in a novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, soft). PRIMITIVE SINGER 25l 2nd of 12 to Comer Boy in a novice chase at Nottingham (3m 110yd, soft) penultimate start. THE BOILER WHITE 4l 3rd of 7 to Rashin in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good) penultimate start.
Selection: COUNTESS VERUSCHKA

2.30 TWEEDLE DUM NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,735: 2m) (9 runners) BBC2

1 1221 FORBIDDEN TIME 6 (CD,S) (Mrs J Paulhenr) L Lungo 7-12-5 (5ex) ..... T Reed 85
2 0-143 ANOTHER VENTURE 21 (D,S) (R Wheeler) G Moore 5-11-7 ..... N Bentley 86
3 224311 INGLETONIAN 35 (D,S) (D Rachael) B Wilkinson 6-11-6 ..... D Bentley 94
4 5/10-510 SPARKLING CONE 27 (S) (Mrs M Horton) M Pipe 6-11-4 ..... R Dunwoody 96
5 40-034U WHERE'S WILLIE 16 (D Langdon) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-8 ..... D Bridgwater 90
6 644141 NICHOLAS PLANT 13 (D,S) (Mrs M Paterson) J Goldie 6-10-7 ..... F Leahy (5) 95
7 356206 SPRING CALL 24 (D Bray) M H Easterby 5-10-1 ..... L Wyer 95
8 00P045 JASON'S BOY 27 (W Jones) J Bradley 5-10-0 ..... N Williamson 95
9 04P-040 MARINERS COVE 14 (R Cawthorn) R Dickin 7-10-0 ..... D Manellin 91

Long handicap: Jason's Boy 9-7, Mariners Cove 9-6.

BETTING: 3-1 Sparkling Cove, 7-2 Forbidden Time, 5-1 Another Venture, 6-1 Ingletonian, Nicholas Plant, 8-1 Where's Willie, 12-1 Spring Call, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

FORBIDDEN TIME beat Monksaxe 4l in a 24-runner novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 110yd, good to soft) ANOTHER VENTURE 5l 4th of 15 to Lee De Famille in a novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, soft) on penultimate start. INGLETONIAN, completing double, beat Lord Dorcet 1¼l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, soft).
SPARKLING CONE beat Well Timed 8l in a 5-runner novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy) on penultimate start. WHERE'S WILLIE 41l 4th of 16 to Rimsey in a novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. NICHOLAS PLANT beat Chorican 12l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, heavy). Previously 11l 4th of 17 to Talos in novice handicap hurdle at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good to soft), with SPRING CALL (14lb better off) 21¼l 6th. JASON'S BOY 36¼l 6th to Fourth In Line in Cheltenham novice hurdle (2m 1f, heavy) last time. MARINERS COVE distant 10th to Mandalf in Newbury novice handicap hurdle latest start (2m 110yd, heavy).
Selection: INGLETONIAN

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5/2 Hill Trix
5 Cache Fleur
11/2 Romany King
16 Bradwall
16 Goodshot Rich
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GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — stopped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat, (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.00 LEWIS CARROLL SELECT HURDLE (£5,345: 2m) (4 runners) BBC2

1 110-213 PRIDWELL 13 (D,F,G,S) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-11-8 ..... R Dunwoody 91
2 /111-3 BOKARO 20 (D,G,S) (Exors of late Lady Joseph) C Brooks 9-11-4 ..... G Bradley (5)
3 1P/632 SALWAN 15 (D,G,S) (P Douglas Eng) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-4 ..... N Williamson 79
4 1-11122 TRYING AGAIN 1 (D,BF,S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 7-11-4 ..... DOUBTFUL –

BETTING: Even Bokaro, 5-4 Pridwell, 6-1 Salwan.

FORM FOCUS

PRIDWELL beat Zealous Kitten 9l in a 6-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, heavy) on penultimate start. BOKARO 15l 3rd of 7 to Land Afar in a 7-runner conditions hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, heavy). SALWAN 12l 2nd of 7 to Amgos in a handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: BOKARO

3.30 WHITE RABBIT HANDICAP CHASE (£6,970: 3m) (6 runners) BBC2

1 04UF-35 ROMANY KING 21 (D,G,S) (Urs E Schwarzenbach) K Bailey 11-11-10 ..... N Williamson 91
2 122U23 CACHE FLEUR 34 (D,BF,F,G,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 9-11-8 ..... R Dunwoody 93
3 14P-P11 HILL TRIX 13 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Elliss) K Bishop 9-10-10 ..... A Tory 98
4 PP121P- BRADWALL 270 (C,D,F,G,S) (G Barlow) Mrs A Hewitt 11-10-8 ..... S Wynne (5)
5 P/113U2 CELTIC PRINCE 22 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs G M-Jones) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-8 D Bridgwater (5)
6 1PP5/PP GOODSHOT RICH 17 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs S Towler) C Brooks 11-10-0 ..... G Bradley –

Long handicap: Goodshot Rich 9-13

BETTING: 6-4 Celtic Prince, 5-2 Hill Trix, 5-1 Cache Fleur, 6-1 Romany King, 16-1 Bradwall, 20-1 Goodshot Rich.

FORM FOCUS

ROMANY KING 21½l 5th of 9 to Dramas Collonges in Kelso handicap chase (3m 4f, good to soft). CACHE FLEUR 33½l 2nd of 5 to Tartan Tyrant in course and distance handicap chase (soft) penultimate start. HILL TRIX, completed double, beat Lo Stregone 5l in 6-runner Newbury handicap chase (3m 2f 110yd, heavy). Previously beat CELTIC PRINCE (10lb better off) 1¼l in 9-runner Towcester handicap chase (3m 1f, heavy).
Selection: HILL TRIX (nap)

4.00 DUCHESS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,933: 2m) (5 runners)

1 F5-3P06 ABBOT OF FURNESS 39 (C,D,S) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 11-11-10 A Dobbin 96
2 215304 BEND SABLE 20 (D,F,S) (F Storey) F Storey 5-11-7 ..... B Storey 93
3 364254 BRAMBLEBERRY 36 (D,S) (Hampers Racing) Mrs S Smith 6-11-1 Richard Guest (5)
4 6-1113F SAINT CIEL 27 (CD,E,S) (Tam Racing) F Jordan 7-10-11 ..... J Lodder 95
5 50/11-P6 SKITTLE ALLEY 79 (D,E,S) (P Riley) W Clay 9-10-0 ..... Diane Clay 87

Long handicap: Skittle Alley 10.

BETTING: 7-4 Saint Ciel, 5-2 Brambleberry, 3-1 Bend Sable, 9-2 Abbot Of Furness, 16-1 Skittle Alley.

FORM FOCUS

ABBOT OF FURNESS, best recent effort, ½l 3rd of 14 to Crank Shaft in a handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). BEND SABLE 4¼l 4th of 11 to Squire Silk in a handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft). BRAMBLEBERRY 14l 4th of 13 to Express Gift in a handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, soft), with ABBOT OF FURNESS 15l 6th and BEND SABLE (C'to worse off) tailed off last. SAINT CIEL 6½l 3rd of 6 to Kingcloid Pet in a handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy) penultimate start. Previously, completed treble, beat Legal Artist 1l in 7-runner Uttoxeter handicap hurdle (2m, soft) with SKITTLE ALLEY (6lb better off) 33½l 6th.
Selection: BRAMBLEBERRY

4.30 WALRUS HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,232: 3m) (6 runners)

1 /P135- FINAL CHANT 281 (D,F,G,S) (D D Brydon) D Brydon 14-12-7 R H Brown (5) 98
2 0U00-P IFREEE 13P (S) (S Hope) R Hyams 8-12-7 ..... S Hope (7) –
3 /P3232- EXTRA SPECIAL 345 (G) (R Ogden) G Richards 10-12-0 ..... Capt A Ogden (7) 95
4 62/PPPU SHAREEF STAR 8 (G) (P Wise) F Matthews 7-12-0 ..... I Squire (7) –
5 1412/ VAGUE INFLUENCE 284P (G) (T Barlow) M Mullineaux 9-12-0 ..... D Barlow (7) –
6 50/2623- VAVASIR 347 (G) (K O'Meara) Mrs C Forbes 9-12-0 ..... A H Crow (7)
7 U14-3 WALLY WREIGN 13P (G,S) (Mrs C Dutton) Mrs P Pawley 12-12-0 R Ford (7) 74
8 3P-1 LADY LLANFAIR 20P (F,S) (N Anderson) W Oakes 9-11-13. Miss P Jones (5) –

BETTING: 5-2 Vavasir, 11-4 Lady Llanfair, 7-2 Extra Special, 5-1 Wally Wreign, 7-1 Final Chant, 10-1 Vague Influence, 20-1 Shareef Star, Ifreee

FORM FOCUS

FINAL CHANT 6½l 3rd of 5 to Once Strong in a hunter chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to firm) penultimate start last season. EXTRA SPECIAL 31½l 2nd of 19 to Christmas Gorse in National Hunt Chase at Cheltenham (4m, good to soft) final start last season. VAGUE INFLUENCE 4l 2nd of 7 to Col Lane in confined point-to-point at Sisburn (good) on latest start, May 1993. VAVASIR tailed off 3rd of 7 to Castle Blue in novice chase at Taunton (3m, good to soft) final start last season. WALLY WREIGN best recent effort beat Quack Vision 15l in 7-runner confined point-to-point at Flagg Moor (good) penultimate start last season. LADY LLANFAIR best Search 2l in 4-runner ladies open point-to-point at Wadebridge (good to soft).
Selection: FINAL CHANT

5.00 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,752: 2m) (9 runners)

1 0 BORO HILL 41 (R Allsop) R Allsop 6-11-6 ..... B Powell –
2 P COOLBINNY 56 (D McCain) D McCain 6-11-6 ..... D McCain (5) –
3 UF3-0 KALI SANA 16 (R Allsop) R Allsop 7-11-6 ..... Mr M Rimell (7) –
4 5 ONESEVENFOUR 17 (G Bartholomew) G Richards 6-11-6 ..... A Dobbin –
5 2-0R SEACHANGE 48 (A Steven) M Wilkinson 6-11-6 ..... J F Titley 86
6 23 SKY RUN 16 (Mrs D Thompson) M Pipe 5-11-6 ..... R Dunwoody (5)
7 1 WATER BARON 13 (D,S) (Mrs L Whitford) A Whillans 4-11-2 ..... K Johnson 87
8 CITY KING (E Briggs) G Richards 4-10-10 ..... B Harding (5) –
9 3 ORANGE EXTREME 98 (J Grayston) W Clay 4-10-5 ..... N Jinckes (7) 79

BETTING: 5-4 Sky Run, 5-2 Onesevenfour, 6-1 Water Baron, City King, 10-1 Orange Extreme, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

ONESEVENFOUR 27½l 5th to Santa Concerto in Leicester NH flat race (2m, soft) SEACHANGE 16l 7th to Spinnaker in Nottingham novice hurdle (2m, good to soft) penultimate start. SKY RUN 16¼l 3rd to Certainly Strong in Ludlow novice hurdle (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft) WATER BARON beat Mary's Feelings 5l in Ayr novice hurdle (2m, heavy). ORANGE EXTREME 26l 3rd to Plunder Bay in Leicester novice hurdle (2m, soft)
Selection: SKY RUN

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HAYDOCK PARK SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Richards, 38 winners from 126 runners, 30.2%; M Pipe, 33 from 120, 27.5%; C Brooks, 8 from 31, 25.8%; N Twiston-Davies, 9 from 36, 25.0%; M H Easterby, 8 from 45, 17.8%; G Moore, 4 from 34, 11.8%; D McCain, 8 from 72, 11.1%

JOCKEYS: D Bridgwater, 4 winners 13 rides, 30.8%; R Dunwoody, 15 from 60, 25.0%, G Bradley, 10 from 41, 24.4%; A Dobbin, 6 from 33, 18.2%, L Wyer, 8 from 61, 13.1%. Only qualifiers.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Wincanton

Going: soft with heavy patches

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Stow Man (J Lower, 7-1); 2, Chickawicka (2-1 fav); 3, Tony's Fen (6-1). 21 ran. 10l, 2½l. M Pipe Tote: £7.90; £2.10, £1.40, £2.20. DF: £6.40. Trio: £9.70. CSF: £20.32.

2.35 (2m chl) 1, Front Street (J Osborne, 9-4); 2, Medmas Swan Song (7-4 fav); 3, Hashar (9-1). 9 ran. NR: Butler's Twitch. 12l, 10l. S Sherwood. Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £1.30, £1.80. DF: £3.20. Trio: £11.70. CSF: £6.25.

3.05 (3m 1f 110yd chl) 1, Monsieur Le Cure (P Niven, 5-6 fav; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Sunley Bay (12-1); 3, Garrison Savannah (2-1). 6 ran. NR: Fiddlers Pike. 30l, dist. J Edwards. Tote: £2.00; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £6.80. CSF: £10.30.

3.35 (2m hdle) 1, Alderbrook (N Williamson, 11-4); 2, Trying Again (6-4 fav); 3, Jazilah (13-8). 7 ran. 8l, 15l. K Bailey. Tote: £3.80; £2.30, £1.60. DF: £4.80. CSF: £7.09.

4.05 (2m 5f ch) 1, Mr Flanagan (D Gallagher, 11-4), 2, Edimbourg (5-4 fav); 3, Lady Ghislaine (4-1) 6 ran. 4l, 15l. C Brooks. Tote: £3.90; £2.40, £1.50. DF: £3.20. CSF: £8.67.

4.35 (2m hdle) 1, Kino's Cross (N Williamson, 14-1); 2, Lighterving Lad (5-2 fav); 3, J Brand (8-1). 14 ran. NR: Kaiser's Joker, Knawl, Pyramis Prince 6l, 6l. A J Wilson. Tote: £67.40, £10.80, £1.50, £2.40. DF: £91.00. Trio: £431.90. CSF: £48.11. Tricast: £290.76. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood

5.05 (2m flat) 1, Credo Boy (M Moran, 8-1); 2, Busking Along (33-1); 3, Foxtrot Romeo (7-1). Hon Delivery 9-4 fav. 17 ran. NR: May Sunset. 25l, ¾l. K Bishop. Tote: £9.80, £2.50, £6.20, £3.50. DF: £213.70. CSF: £227.12.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £8,144.83 carried forward to Kempton Park today). Placepot: £6.40. Quadpot: £5.30.

Huntingdon

Going: soft with heavy patches

1.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Home From The Hill (A Thornton, 10-1); 2, Tamergale (9-2); 3, Bayanyka (6-4 fav) 20 ran. NR: Castle Claire, Rums. 4l, ¾l. M Crannon. Tote: £12.90; £4.10, £2.10, £1.10. DF: £30.80. CSF: £57.98.

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Rectory Garden (G McCourt, 5-4 fav); 2, Chichell's Hurst (11-4); 3, La Ginno (4-1) 11 ran. ¾l, ½l. T Forster. Tote: £2.50, £1.30, £1.10, £1.80. DF: £3.30. CSF: £8.27.

2.50 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Wee Windy (P Hide, 7-2 fav); 2, Wiwi II (10-1); 3, Pettaugh (10-1) 12 ran. 6l, 12l. J Gifford. Tote: £4.00; £1.70, £1.80, £2.80. DF: £12.00. Trio: £70.80. CSF: £36.82. Tricast: £300.88.

3.20 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Sound Revaille (G Bradley, 7-2), 2, Northern Saddler (7-2); 3, Boston Rover (6-1) Duhallow Lodge 5-4 fav. 5 ran. 9l, 2l. C Brooks. Tote: £4.50; £2.10, £2.00. DF: £11.60. CSF: £14.80.

3.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Clifton Beat (G McCourt, 5-4 fav); 2, Amancio (7-4); 3, Tukano (9-1) 8 ran. 2½l, 15l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.20, £1.10, £1.50, £2.10. DF: £1.70. CSF: £4.03.

4.25 (3m ch) 1, Celtic Barle (S McNeill, 7-1 fav); 2, Nicklup (13-2), 3, Postman's Path (6-1). 7 ran. 10l, 9l. H Hodge. Tote: £2.70; £1.90, £3.00. DF: £11.60. CSF: £13.89.

4.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Major's Law (Miss E Doyle, 11-2); 2, August Twelfth (11-2); 3, Cluncan (10-1). Star Market 9-4 fav 14 ran. NR: Forest Rain. 1¼l, 3½l. J White. Tote: £6.20, £1.70, £2.90, £3.50. DF: £10.70. Trio: £17.30. CSF: £36.65. Tricast: £277.86.

Placepot: £17.40. Quadpot: £62.80.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.15 (5f) 1, Tenor (Alex Greaves, 11-8 fav), 2, The Instrure Boy (3-1), 3, Tee-Emm (9-2). 8 ran, 1½l, ½l. D Nicholls. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £2.20. DF: £3.20. CSF: £5.44.

2.45 (1m 4f) 1, Harlequin Walk (J Quinn, 13-8 fav); 2, Lon Isa (8-1), 3, Cilbumei News. (9-1). 11 ran. ¾l, ¾l. A Hide. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £11.00. CSF: £14.08.

3.15 (1m 2f) 1, Young Freeman (J Weaver, 5-2 fav; Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Achilles Heel (8-1), 3, Captain Marmalade (10-1). 11 ran. 9l, 3l. D Loder. Tote: £3.20; £1.10, £4.70, £3.10. DF: £18.70. Tno: £187.80. CSF: £23.25. Tricast: £166.13. Tote

3.45 (6f) 1, Tyrian Purple (D Harrison, 7-2); 2, Baileys Sunset (9-4 fav); 3, Anotherone To Note (12-1) 11 ran. 1¾l, 2½l. T Naughton. Tote: £5.10; £1.40, £1.60, £2.30. DF: £5.00. CSF: £11.99. No bid.

4.15 (7f) 1, Ranown (D Harrison, 6-5 fav); 2, Breckland (33-1); 3, Sollenna (5-1). 11 ran. ¾l, ¼l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £3.30, £1.80. DF: £27.20. CSF: £38.36.

4.45 (7f) 1, Master Millfield (J Weaver, 4-1). 2, Three Arch Bridge (3-1); 3, Greenwich Again (11-2). 8 ran. 1¼l, ¼l. C Hill. Tote: £6.70; £1.50, £1.70. DF: £9.00. CSF: £15.63.

Placepot: £26.30. Quadpot: £27.90.

☐ Nick Gaselee's Party Politics, the 1992 Grand National winner, will be ridden by Mark Dwyer in the Greenalls Gold Cup at Haydock Park tomorrow.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 IDIOT'S LADY (nap). 2.50 Double Silk. 3.20 Smith's Band. 3.50 Big Matt. 4.20 Hops And Pops. 4.50 Landed Gentry.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.20 IDIOT'S LADY.

Brian Beel: 2.50 Double Silk.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 BEDFONT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,906: 2m 5f) (13 runners)

101 -331 BEAR CLAW 17 (B,S) D Sherwood 6-11-5 ..... J Osborne 81
102 4252 DEDUCE 15 (F,G) J White 5-11-5 ..... J Railton 81
103 6-21 IDIOT'S LADY 55 (S) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 ..... W Marston (3)
104 0-12 OATS N BARLEY 29 (G) P Rodford 6-11-0 ..... S Burrough 76
105 3314 SO HOPEFUL 15 (S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-11-0 ..... R Greene 80
106 20 AUTUMN SUNSHINE 16 C Weedon 5-10-10 ..... Peter Hobbs –
107 0-00 COUNTRY KEEPER 17 (B) B Ryall 7-10-10 ..... N Mann –
108 33F2 FURETTO 20 D Nicholson 5-10-10 ..... A Maguire 82
109 3203 POINCIANA 41 Miss C Johnsey 6-10-10 ..... DOUBTFUL –
110 SCRATCH PLAYER Mrs J Renfree-Barons 8-10-10 ..... Mr G Shenkin (7) –
111 060- SPECTACULAR STAR 326 K Bailey 6-10-10 ..... A Thornton –
112 05 WARRIOR BARD 98 Miss H Knight 5-10-10 ..... R Farrant 69
113 45 MATCHING GREEN 57 G Balding 6-10-5 ..... A P McCoy (3) 89

7-4 Idiot's Lady, 7-2 Bear Claw, 5-1 Deduce, 6-1 Furetto, 7-1 So Hopeful, 10-1 Oats N Barley, 16-1 others.

2.50 CORINTHIAN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,332: 3m) (6)

201 F-11 DOUBLE SILK 3 (D,F,G,S) R Wilkins 11-12-10 R Treloggen (3)
202 U31- SYNDERBOROUGH LAD 267 (D,F,G) S Pike 9-12-10 ..... M Felton (5) 67
303 11-U ARGSTAR 15 (D,G,S) Miss C Saunders 8-12-7 ..... DOUBTFUL –
204 12-1 COOL RELATION 14 (F,G,S) D Cary 9-12-7 ..... A Phillips (7) 67
205 21-1 TEAPLANTER 20 (CD,F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 12-12-7 ..... R Russell (3) 90
206 5P-5 CELTIC SHOT 16 (C,D,G,S) D Tatlow 13-12-0. D Duggan (7) –

1-2 Double Silk, 7-2 Teaplanter, 6-1 Cool Relation, 12-1 Synderborough Lad, 25-1 Celtic Shot.

3.20 FAMOUS GROUSE NOVICES CHASE (£3,745: 3m) (7)

301 1212 SMITH'S BAND 16 (D,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-12 W Marston (3)
302 2122 THE FRIDG PRINCE 34 (F,S) N Gaselee 7-11-12 ..... J Osborne 96
303 3130 CASTIGLIERO 6 (B,S) C Brooks 7-11-9 ..... D Gallagher 84
304 FR3P DON'T BUCK 5 J Upson 8-11-5 ..... R Supple 76
305 P-4P TERLA 17 (S) A Chamberlain 10-11-5 ..... D Leahy (3) 71
306 1/4 FRIENDLY LADY 37 (F,G,S) J Cann 11-11-4 ..... Miss P Darling 67
307 4122 SHAMARPHIL 39 (F,S) K Bishop 9-11-4 ..... R Greene 78

6-4 Smith's Band, 2-1 The Frog Prince, 3-1 Castigliero, 12-1 Friendly Lady, 16-1 Shamarphil, 25-1 Terla, Don't Buck.

3.50 PORTLANE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,622: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

401 44-4 CITY KID 74 (B,S) S Sherwood 10-11-10 ..... S McNeill 87
402 2353 LACKENDARA 60 (C,F,G,S) Miss H Knight 8-11-5 J Osborne 98
403 F-51 MAXIT 14 (B,S) N Henderson 7-11-4 ..... M A Fitzgerald 95
404 2-4P WILLOW GALE 46 (D,G) P Butler 8-10-0 ..... A Maguire 85

4-5 Big Matt, 3-1 Lackendara, 4-1 City Kid, 14-1 Willow Gale.

4.20 KEMPTON PARK NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,850: 2m) (9)

501 RF11 CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 78 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-11-8. G McCourt 84
502 -416 WHO IS EQUINAME 41 (CD,S) N Henderson 5-11-8 ..... M A Fitzgerald (3)
503 -415 MORE DASH THANCASH 69 (D,G) Mrs M Jones 5-11-4 ..... A P McCoy (3) 77
504 013U HOPS AND POPS 6 (D,BF,F,G,S) R Allner 8-11-3 ..... A Maguire 96
505 55 MR PRIMETIME 16 C Brooks 5-11-0 ..... D Gallagher 79
506 00-0 MUTUAL MEMORIES 101 N Henderson 7-11-0 J R Kavanagh –
507 RED CHANNEL T Casey 5-11-0 ..... A Thornton –
508 0 STONE BRAMBLE 118 Miss H Knight 5-11-0 ..... J Osborne –
509 0-40 DEPTFORD BELLE 46 R Curtis 5-10-9 ..... D Morris –

5-4 Captain Khedive, 7-4 Hops And Pops, 6-1 More Dash Thancash, 8-1 Who Is Equiname, 12-1 Mr Primetime, 20-1 others.

4.50 LITTLETON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,022: 2m 5f) (11)

601 6111 ASK THE GOVERNOR 17 (CD,F,G,S) G Balding 9-11-10 ..... A P McCoy (3) 90
602 -656 FRIENDLY FELLOW 20 (D,S) D Elsworth 6-11-9 ..... P Holley 92
603 1UU5 GORTEERA 66 (D,S) O Brennan 9-11-8 ..... M Brennan 85
604 2130 MR PICKPOCKET 20 (S) J Jefferis 7-11-8 ..... G McCourt 88
605 11-0 FRED EARTH 91 (D,F,S) J Fanshawe 7-11-8 ..... J Osborne 87
606 -026 MARRDS MILL 48 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-5 ..... A Maguire 84
607 B32P EARLY MAN 18 (C,F,S) D Gressell 8-11-1 ..... Peter Hobbs 88
608 F314 LANDED GENTRY 7 (BF,S) C Broad 6-10-13 ..... W Marston 98
609 1-68 DUNCAN IDAHO 17 (G,S) R Callow 12-10-8 ..... M A Fitzgerald 95
610 PP13 ROYAL PIPER 13 (S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 8-10-6 DOUBTFUL –
611 5241 JADIDH 7 (F,B,S) C Wildman 7-10-4 ..... D Salter (5)

11-4 Jadidh, 9-2 Ask The Governor, 5-1 Landed Gentry, 6-1 Fred Earth, 7-1 Marrds Mill, 8-1 Friendly Fellow, 10-1 Mr Pickpocket, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Upson, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; K Bailey, 12 from 43, 27.9%; N Henderson, 20 from 74, 27.0%, R Allner, 3 from 12, 25.0%; D Nicholson, 13 from 62, 21.0%.

JOCKEYS: W Marston, 4 winners from 10 rides, 40.0%, M A Fitzgerald, 10 from 45, 22.2%; Peter Hobbs, 9 from 45, 20.0%; J Osborne, 26 from 133, 19.5%, S McCourt, 12 from 68, 17.4%

Cheltenham objective

SOUND REVEILLE, trained by Charlie Brooks, is on course for the Cheltenham Festival after winning the National Letterbox Marketing Handicap Chase at Huntingdon yesterday. He could tackle the Grand Annual Handicap Chase or the Arkle Trophy.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.40 At The Savoy. 2.10 Uckerby Lad. 2.40 No Submission. 3.10 Allinson's Mate. 3.40 Lady Roxanne. 4.10 Wisdom. 4.40 Telephus.

GOING: STAND

Commission's options limited

FA left open to repercussions in case of Cantona



David Miller on the difficulties faced by the disciplinary tribunal that sits in judgment today

The offence by Eric Cantona against dignity, decency and morality, never mind against football and sport, is only marginally worse than that of Don Revie when he deviously walked out on his contract as manager of England in 1977. Yet, 18 years on, the Football Association is still in a disciplinary cleft stick for fear that its decisions will be judicially reviewed and overturned.

Nothing has been done during the intervening years to establish a truly independent tribunal that would enable proper punishment to be taken today against Cantona, the Manchester United and France forward, for jumping feet first at a spectator, albeit a provocative spectator, at Selhurst Park last month.

This administrative lacuna is the more inexplicable considering that Sir Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, is himself a solicitor and therefore well aware of the continuing disciplinary legal limitations.

It is perhaps worth reminding Cantona, his club and the FA disciplinary commission that meets today, that the ten-year suspension from all English football, imposed on Revie by Professor Sir Harold Thompson, the FA chairman at the time, was said by Mr Justice Cantley to have been appropriate for Revie's selfish opportunism and disregard for the good of the sport. Cantona's behaviour, immediately after yet another sending-off — not to say that the commission will consider the two offences today — was far worse than Revie's, being seen by millions, including schoolchildren, on television.

Revie's legal action against the FA's suspension was, however, upheld by Mr Justice Cantley on the grounds that the theoretical independent bystander could have considered the disciplinary commission not to have been totally impartial. Revie's character was humiliatingly demolished in court by Mr Justice Cantley, but nevertheless he was granted his case on a point of law.

Increasingly commercialised and increasingly rudderless, the FA seems to have drifted on a tide of contemporary sleaze to the point where, instead of the glory of which Danny Blanchflower used to talk, it seems that football epitomises violence and sleaze: Vinnie Jones and Dennis Wise, Paul Merson and George Graham, and allegations of "bungs" involving a number of clubs.

Today, the three-man disciplinary commission — two from professional leagues representatives under the chairmanship of Jeffrey Thompson, a JP from the amateur county game — is vulnerable if attempting to impose the extreme penalty it, and many others inside and outside the game, might wish.

The commission is compromised by several factors. The decision this week by the police to charge Cantona, 28, with common assault means that any punishment, above and beyond the suspension until the end of the season imposed by his club, could be said to prejudice criminal proceedings. The FA, although having been given legal advice that it, as the game's governing body, is entitled to take separate, independent disciplinary measures, is unlikely to do anything extreme. (In the case of Duncan Ferguson, of Rangers, who is being prosecuted for alleged head-butting during a match against Raith Rovers, the Scottish Football Association has held over its disciplinary hearing).

The FA will also be concerned about possible legal repercussions from Manchester United if it attempts to extend the suspension, which will amount to some 25 matches should United again reach the FA Cup final. The reversal, under judicial review, of the FA's penalties imposed on Tottenham will be fresh on their mind.

There is little doubt that United's "voluntary" decision to suspend Cantona was done in the expedient interest of protecting their investment, thereby to pre-empt FA action: even if the suspension in fact followed discussion with the FA the day following the Selhurst Park incident. Maurice Watkins, a United director and Manchester solicitor, will be at St Albans today, pleading on behalf of the "investment".

The oddity of the police's action is that they have not brought proceedings against Matthews Simmons, who provoked Cantona's attack, for his insulting words and behaviour under section 4 of the Public Order Act, "likely to cause a person to believe that violence is about to be used".

Equally odd is the fact that, under the 1989 Football Spectators Act, Simmons could be banned for a year from attending all Premier League and even international matches, yet the same Act does not embrace Cantona's behaviour, which it surely should.

Yet, whatever defence or mitigation Cantona might have for the incident is likely to be slim, whatever the qualified "support" he has received from the Professional Footballers' Association. Any professional boxer leaving the ring after a controversial bout, when crowd provocation can be extreme and close-range, would never again receive a licence if he attacked a ticket-holder. In what way is Cantona, no more or less a professional entertainer, any different?



The incident at Selhurst Park that was seen by millions of people on television



PETER LOMAS

Thomson considers his position before defeating Brassey in the world indoor singles bowls championship in Preston yesterday

Thomson overcomes unimpressive form

BY GORDON ALLAN

IF PLAYING badly and still winning is the mark of a champion, then the omens are good for Andy Thomson, the holder, in the Churchill Insurance world indoor singles bowls championship at the Preston Guild Hall.

"I played an awful game," Thomson said after labouring to beat Rowan Brassey, of New Zealand, 7-3, 3-7, 7-4, 7-5 in the quarter-finals yesterday. "Rowan was drawing much better than me and would have deserved to win. I bowled far too many short woods. I'll have to improve."

Brassey said: "If you'd taken Andy's fourth bowl away, I'd have won by three sets to nothing, but that's the sign of a champion. He produced the big shots when they mattered."

The Auckland player's comment neatly summed up the pattern of the match. Brassey kept putting bowls close to the jack and Thomson kept removing them with his deliveries.

Thomson won the first set aided by a take-out for a count of four shots. Brassey squared the match in the second and lost a 4-2 lead in the third. In the fourth, at 5-3, Brassey had a set-lie of two before Thomson drew the shot with his last bowl. On the last end, Thomson scored a scattered three, with Brassey just failing to trail the jack through to a nest of his own back woods.

In the concluding quarter-final, played last night, Tony Allcock faced Hugh Duff.

Nobody has won the singles four times, but Richard Corsie has an excellent chance of achieving that record this year. He won in 1989, 1991 and 1993 and, this being an odd-numbered year, superstition, for what it is worth, says that he should win the final on Sunday.

First, however he has to beat Mervyn King, of Norfolk, in a semi-final today. King has reached that stage for the first time. He is the English champion, a phlegmatic character on the green and a man who rarely fires, preferring to draw, draw and draw to the jack with what seems, when he is at his best, to be unremitting accuracy — the accuracy that comes with touch, skill and practice. .

Corsie and King have met twice in this championship — in the quarter-finals last year and in the second round the year before — and Corsie won both matches by three sets to two. The quarter-final was described by Corsie as one of the hardest matches he has experienced, which King was a little unlucky to lose. It could be a contest of similar quality today.

In the pairs, Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, winners in 1993 and runners-up last year, advanced to the semi-finals with a 7-2, 7-4, 7-2 win over Hugh Duff and David Miller, of Cumbernauld, on Wednesday. They will play Tony Allcock and David Bryant today.

RESULT: Singles: Quarter-final: A Thomson (Eng) bt R Brassey (NZ) 7-3, 3-7, 7-4, 7-5

Safety-first way kills Welsh flair



GERALD DAVIES

On Rugby Union

My pal is unashamedly elitist. Every so often, he picks up the phone and tells me so. This might sit rather oddly, you may think, with a man who has lived and breathed the radical air of the old Glamorgan valleys all his life and whose political views are very much those reflected by the majority at election time in Wales.

He may modify his tone in a sort of minor key now and again and shift his allegiance when a certain remorse takes hold for a lost golden age of parliament when giants, he says, not pigmies, banged the drum, but for sure, however deep-rooted this sense of loss, he is hardly ever likely to be seen wearing the blue rosette of those who, historically, have been thought to believe in an elite class. That would be treachery on a grand scale.

To him, Education (with a capital E if you don't mind) is the priceless inheritance to be cherished and exalted. He spent his career administering it. Class, meaning the stylishly gifted and not that other kind that is socially devisable, is another cardinal virtue that inspires his reverence. He does not mind the cream getting to the top, so long as everyone has the same fair chance of doing so.

Like all the old grammar school boys, his great sporting passions are cricket and rugby, which the old school nurtured with devotion. One of his pastimes is to keep a record, mostly in his head, of the Welsh boys who have been to Oxford and Cambridge: what schools they came from, who received their blues and when: what they read when they were there, what degrees they received and what they did next. He keeps a close eye on other universities and colleges, too. He admires the first-rate.

Of late, when he has seen Wales not performing as he would wish and in that special way he had seen so much in his own past, his refrain has been constant: "There are not enough university men in the team." This is not to undervalue the contribution of others. Far from it. He merely observes that the balance of players within the team, which was once a source of strength and variety, has no longer the same symmetry of, to put it bluntly, brawn and brain. Although, he hastens to add, there has been no shortage of graduates, a clergyman or two, even, who have been more than happy to supply the brawn.

It is more the independence of mind that my friend wishes to emphasise. With coaching taking such a grip on the game — witness the emergence of the coach on the field at half-time — a player is conditioned by the advice he is given. He does as he is told. Rightly or wrongly, that is the perception that everyone has when the coach is seen to mingle among the players during the interval. Increasingly, a team has to depend on his presence.

However pertinent that advice is before the game begins or at half-time, it cannot hold true for the whole of the two 40-minute periods. A player must respond to the immediate ebb and flow of the game: the tempo rises and falls; players are injured, they go off, a team is reduced in number; the rain comes; the wind blows. A coach's role is as much in understanding of when to exert an influence and when to withdraw and so let the player shoulder the burden himself. A player's self-belief is essential and will not survive otherwise.

My friend's point is that a player, having undergone a period of higher education, is more likely not only to make up his own mind but has learnt to be confident of his point of view. He is more ready to be answerable for his choices and to preserve an independent air. As a rugby player, he is less likely to need the coach as a crutch.

There is a danger that a player's behaviour becomes merely a fixed response. It lacks freshness. There persists the feeling, influenced largely by what happens in the clubs, that Wales play in this way. The same may be said of England, especially in the manner they failed to adapt tactics to capitalise on a Wales team down to 14 men, with a scrum half on the wing. It took them 23 minutes to score.

Wales insisted on passing when a period of judicious kicking might have denied England the luxury of tackling behind Wales' gain line. Crossing that gain line, as quickly and simply as possible, is England's key philosophy. A passing counter-attack might take too long and be too intricate.

For Wales, counter-attacking might have been one way to avoid England's suffocating tactics, but since this manner of playing is fast disappearing in the safety-first mentality of club rugby, it is no longer part of a player's instinctive response. There are checks and balances to which only the player can react.

Decisions when to pass, to run or to kick can only be made on the pitch. Although it may not often seem like it, rugby union remains a thinking man's game, as my friend keeps saying, other than to those who wish to turn it into the programmed condition of American football.

Challenge line-up provokes dissent

BY SALLY JONES

CHRIS BRAY, the Petworth professional, goes into the second stage of the British Land real tennis world championship national eliminator today with his confidence high after taking a surprise 3-1 lead over the favourite, Julian Snow, on the first day.

Bray, 28, who is ranked No 5 in the world, three places behind Snow, the world's top amateur, made good use of the lively surface at Hampton Court and an unexpectedly subdued performance by Snow, although, as this is a best-of-13 set encounter, there is still all to play for.

The winner will meet either Wayne Davies, the former world champion, or his fellow-Australian, Lachie Deuchar for the right to challenge Robert Fahey, of Tasmania, for his world title in April.

Deuchar's inclusion in the series has proved controversial, for he is the only challenger not to have won one of the four leading championships since the last world play-offs a year ago. Victory in one of these events brings with it an automatic right to challenge for the world title. Any other player, however distinguished, is permitted to challenge only under "exceptional circumstances".

Although Deuchar won two high-profile championships last year, the British professional singles and the lucrative Laurent-Perrier Masters, beating all the contenders for the world crown, including Fahey himself, he did not play in any of the overseas championships and lost to Snow in the final of the British Open.

"Exceptional circumstances" were cited when the governing body for this year's world championships, the Australian Real Tennis Association (ARTA), accepted his challenge. "ARTA has done nothing illegal," Snow said, "but it's a bad decision because there aren't any exceptional circumstances."

Deuchar is amazed by his inclusion: "I can understand how frustrated the automatic challengers must be feeling," he said, "but from my point of view, though, I've beaten everyone that matters over the past six months."

Hearn's hat in the ring

BARRY HEARN may expand his sporting empire by taking control of Leyton Orient, the struggling second division football club, which has debts of £500,000.

The millionaire boxing and snooker promoter has been a supporter of the club since he was a child. He has had discussions about stamping his Matchroom trademark on football with Tony Wood, the Orient chairman and majority shareholder, and could buy him out in the next few days.

Wood, who has invested around £2 million in Orient, has decided to pull out after the collapse of his coffee business in Rwanda.

Burnley have agreed to pay £300,000 for Kurt Nogan, Brighton's Wales B international striker. Nogan, who has missed the last five matches with a shoulder injury, travelled north yesterday to discuss personal terms.

Glenn Roeder, the Watford manager, is hoping the Everton striker, Brett Angell, will join his side's bid for promotion from the first division. Roeder has spent most of the season searching for a big centre forward and is ready to table a bid of £350,000.

However, Roeder's chances of signing the player have not been improved by the knee injury sustained by Paul Rideout in Everton's defeat at Leeds on Wednesday. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, may feel unable to let Angell leave.

Weather threatens Yeovil international

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE England semi-professional team will be trying to extend a run of victories over Wales to four when the sides meet at Yeovil for their annual match on Tuesday. First, however, England must beat the weather and a pitch report after tomorrow's Vauxhall Conference match against Gateshead at Huish Park will be anxiously awaited.

Instead of training at Lilleshall, which has been their normal routine, the England players plan to gather on Sunday in Honiton for a two-day get-together that would also be forfeited if the match cannot go ahead, leaving them short of preparation for a trip to play the Holland Olympic team next month.

Tony Jennings, the manager, this week lost Leroy May, of Stafford Rangers, the Conference's leading scorer, because of injury and the party contains only four players from the team that beat Wales 2-1 at Bangor last year.

"There are a lot of changes, caused by injuries, form and the move by a couple of players into the Football League — Mark Hone is now at Southend and Gary Brabin at Doncaster Rovers," Jennings said.

"I'm not too worried about the back four. That has a nice solid look. Steve Farrelly, the Macclesfield goalkeeper, is a newcomer and, if he plays as he has done for his club this season, I'm sure he will do as well as Graham Benstead did on his first appearance last year, when he made a couple of vital saves.

"Up front, I'll be particularly interested to see how Liam Watson, on the left-hand side, comes through and will also be interested in the form of Ian Arnold, the former Carlisle United player, who has only just come down to this level."

Wales are managed by Lyn Jones, who has included four players from Merthyr Tydfil, where he has recently returned from Inter Cardiff for a second spell as manager.

Arlesey Town, the Minerva South Midlands League leaders, having knocked out Diss Town, the holders, will be looking to extend their FA Vase run when they meet Cammell Laird, from Birkenhead, who play in the West Cheshire League, in the quarter-finals tomorrow.

The surviving Diadora League sides, Oxford City and Canvey Island, meet on Sunday to avoid clashing with Oxford United's Endsleigh Insurance League match with Chester City tomorrow.

ENGLAND SQUAD: S Farrelly (Macclesfield), L Batty (Woking), S Hodson (Kidderminster), A Reid (Altrincham), S Holden (Kettering), K Brown (Woking), C Hogarth (Guiseley), C Browne (Dover), P Webb (Kidderminster), S Stott (Bromsgrove), M Hine (Gateshead), R Forsyth (Kidderminster), D Humphreys (Kidderminster), I Arnold (Kettering), L Watson (Marine).

WALES SQUAD: G Abraham (Merthyr Tydfil), A Davies (Flint), M Gunn (Alan Lido), K Jones (Bangor City), R Jones (Barry), F Mottram (Bangor City), A Mullinder (Llansantffraid), N O'Brien (Inter Cardiff), N Davies (Holywell), K Richards (Ton Pentre), M Roberts (Newtown), M Rutter (Bangor City), G Wager (Merthyr Tydfil), D Webley (Merthyr Tydfil), N Jones (Merthyr Tydfil), M Lloyd Williams (Bangor City).

Shaw may miss World Cup chance

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SIMON SHAW, the Bristol lock who has made such strides up the representative ladder over the last eight months, has had his World Cup aspirations dented by injury. Shaw, 21, has been advised that he may have to rest for two months after suffering damage to the medial ligaments of his right knee playing in England's A international with Italy last Sunday.

After making an excellent impression as a late addition to England's party in South Africa last summer, Shaw has been on the verge of a full cap all season when both England's first-choice locks, Martin Johnson and Martin Bayfield, have sustained illness and injury. As it is, he played in all three A internationals before his injury at Gloucester.

"I'm told it's a case of rest, I'm not sure for how long, but, at the worst, it will be two months," Shaw said yesterday. That effectively ends his club season — Bristol are already missing the experienced Andy Blackmore, also injured — and if England were to choose him in their World Cup squad, which will be named late in March after the five nations' championship is over, they would have to do so on trust.

Shaw's misfortune gives added significance to Bath's defence of the Pilkington Cup against Northampton tomorrow. Nigel Redman, England's player of the season last year but overlooked this season, may feel that a third World Cup remains a possibility and has the chance to prove it against a Saints lineout that includes Bayfield.

Bath have omitted two other internationals — Andy Robinson and Graham Dawe. Robinson's place on the flank in the quarter-final goes to Steve Ojomoh, while the flanker-turned-hooker, Gareth Adams, is preferred to Dawe.

WALES UNDER-21 (v Scotland under-21, March 3): M Evans (Cardiff RFE); O Thomas (Cardiff), R Jones (Neath), G Thomas (Bridgend), C Moir (Northampton); A Thomas (Neath), J Hewlett (Cardiff); C Loader (Swansea), M Thomas (Swansea), A N Other, C Quinnell (Llanelli), C Billen (Pontypool), S Ford (Aberavon), A Moore (Swansea), P Beard (Cardiff).



Shaw: knee injury

هكذا من الاصل

Police, protesters and participants drawn together by Waterloo Cup

Battle lines remain despite groups' common ground

There is all manner of strange behaviour with which I empathise: headlines that recount the wrongdoings of vicars and Scoutmasters steadily make me feel that there but for the grace of God ... though I am *neither* religious nor homosexual.

Politicians discovered to be no better than the rest of us, judges pronouncing that these men behaved like a pack of dogs, hoteliers nailed for profligate use of Kennomeat, cause me to hang my head; given the circumstances and the opportunity, I might be as guilty as they are. But when I see on television news some poor woman who tried to kidnap another's child being packed into a police van and a dozen of my fellow citizens run behind it screaming abuse and banging the panels of the vehicle, I am bemused: what causes these interfering bodies to do this? What concern is it of theirs? Can they not trust a judge and jury?

I have spent the week reporting the Waterloo Cup, the blue riband of coursing. Thousands of aficionados braved foul weather, lined the sodden banks of The Withins at Altcar. More than a hundred people known as "antis", which is a loose alliance of the League Against Cruel Sports and various animal rights organisations, came to protest. The law of our land states that it is their right to do so, as much as it is the right of people to course.

Coursing concerns the breeding and training of greyhounds to enhance their natural speed and agility. Dogs chase hares, have done since time began, are likely to go on. It is a natural reaction and seems to me more natural than for people with loudspeakers to insult those who activate, support or condone this pursuit ... but that is my personal view.

Having seen three days of it, I want to put this into some sort of perspective:

Day one: I arrive at my Southport hotel and am confronted by a man and three women bearing anti-coursing placards.

"Are you going coursing?"

"Yes, I am a journalist."

"You (expletive) scum."

I had intended going to a Chinese restaurant and ordering a portion of No 24 for dinner. I rang room service for an egg sandwich on granary bread instead. I watched *East-Enders* over the din of the protesters outside my window.

Day two: Coursing takes place in remote locations like a field four miles east of



FREUD ON FRIDAY

Formby. There are no signs. Approach roads, tracks really, have police patrols; I pass a dozen mounted police.

Half a mile from where I can see marquees and parked cars, I am stopped by stewards and questioned; then stopped again and waved on. "We just wanted to make sure ..." Police walk around in pairs. I ask if they expect trouble. "Antis are coming at 11 o'clock."

At 10.45 on the horizon of the flat wetlands, I see a slow-moving straggle of humanity, like an army in retreat. They are led by three mounted policemen, followed by three more, and a dozen yellow-jacketed police walk by their sides.

An announcement on the public address system warns us that there may be an incendiary device planted among the crowd: be careful. We are careful. Soon after 11 o'clock, the antis, ringed by their police escort, are positioned on a bank facing the tented village where one can buy hats, horse brasses and prints of Fullerton winning the Waterloo Cup in 1890 (he also won in 1891 and 1892).

> 'The law states that it is their right to protest, as much as it is others to course'

Coursing continues 150 yards to the east; there is a high wind and what they sing and shout is lost, carried back in the direction from which they came.

Now here is an interesting development; facing the bank with their backs to the British Field Sports Society tent stand three anti-antis; young, male, hard-looking men, and two mounted policemen acting as anti-anti-antis ride into them, order them to move on, grip one by the shoulders and carry him away. All sorts of curious coursing supporters come from the tea tents and the beer tents and are told in no uncertain fashion to clear out, get back behind that line of cars or into the marquees.

One of the antis, a girl with rain-streaked hair and a shrill voice, has a loudspeaker and shouts at us. "I hope you rot in hell," is part of her text, and frequently repeated.

I wonder whether there are alternatives when one gets to hell: can one choose rotting or needlework?; is this aggravated *schadenfreude* on the part of the girl?; am I being pedantic? At noon, the antis are marched away.

On my way back to Southport, I pass two women and a boy carrying animal rights posters and offer them a lift. No. I tell them I am a journalist, would like to hear their views; can we talk here or might they come to my hotel for a cup of tea? No.

Day three: Coursing takes place in Lidyate, which is even farther from the beaten track than was yesterday's meet. The weather is foul. There is a goodish police presence but no antis; if an anti had made it through the wind and the rain and the fields, he would have got a huge cheer.

The ground is sodden, the hares are unsatisfactory; six are killed in the eight courses which are run. This is a greater disincentive to go coursing than being cursed by shrill-voiced women. Action is suspended and we return to the hotel. A furious-looking girl sees me and shouts: "Sigmund Freud coursing scum."

I go out to dinner; when I return, a police car with two officers waits in the hotel drive "just here in case the antis come back and make trouble". They don't.

Day four: There was some rain, a shower of hail, freezing wind, whisky and hot water if you went first to the barman then to the tea lady ... and no antis. We who coursed had a good day and we who backed the winner an especially cheerful one. But traditionalists were saddened by the fact that for the first time in the 186-year history of the Waterloo Cup, there was no police escort for the two canine finalists.

The public address system urged us to help to frustrate the anti-field sports Bill on March 3.

Back at the hotel, two very well behaved men sit by their notice which expresses the official anti view: Coursing perverts Sport ... exactly what an aunt of mine used to say about fishing, but then nearly four million people fish.



Animal rights campaigners make their point outside the hotel in Southport



The coursing action gets under way. Photographs: Barry Greenwood

Eyles in hospital after collapsing

RODNEY EYLES, from Australia, the world No 3 squash player, was under observation in the cardiac department of Kingston Hospital in Surrey yesterday after collapsing at Coleis Club while waiting to play for Lingfield in a Surrey Cup match on Wednesday (Collin McQuillan writes).

Eyles, 27, an athletic and inventive competitor, became the leading Australian challenger over the past year, winning the Tournament of Champions in New York and the Mahandra Challenge in Bombay, to challenge Jansher Khan, the world champion, and Peter Marshall, the British champion, in the world rankings.

His performances at first string for Lingfield in the Super Squash League since Christmas had, however, been disappointing against lower-ranked opposition, although he did defeat Derek Ryan, the Irish champion, on Monday evening. Hospital authorities said yesterday that Eyles was "comfortable and resting".

England inspects

CRICKET: The England A selectors were yesterday forced to delay their choice for the final tour match, a three-day encounter with Bangladesh, in Dhaka, by a thunderstorm. The city was swamped by torrential rain, inducing the selectors to put their plans on hold until they inspect the pitch at the National Stadium before play starts today.

The England A captain, Alan Wells, the only man certain to play, explained: "We are not prepared to take any chances even now. We have developed the winning habit and want to keep it. That's why we will have a good look at the pitch to make sure we have the right team for the conditions. It would be unfair for us to slacken off at this stage and unfair to the selectors who pinned their faith on all of us."

Dangerfield challenge

CYCLING: The time-trial season starts in earnest on Sunday with the traditional opening classic, the North Road CC hardriders' 25 miles in Hertfordshire, which takes in minor roads where technical riding skill ranks equal with physical fitness. The 90 competitors will need ideal conditions to approach the event record, set by Chris Boardman, of 57min 20sec. Stuart Dangerfield, who won last year with a time of 58min, is the top seed.

Sampras recovers

TENNIS: Pete Sampras struggled into the second round of the United States indoor men's tournament in Philadelphia yesterday, beating Marcelo Filippini, of Uruguay, only after recovering from a first-set setback. The world No 1 was also a break down in the third set before completing a 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 victory. Andre Agassi, however, eased into the quarter-finals with a relatively easy 6-3, 6-4 second-round win over another American, Jeff Tarango.

Oxford promise much

REAL TENNIS: Nick Baker, of Cambridge, and Alex Roberts-Miller, of Oxford, meet in what promises to be a thrilling first-string singles in the University match, which starts today at Queens Club (Sally Jones writes). Baker has gone from a handicap of 21 to 16 in two months while Roberts-Miller looks possibly even stronger than his 15 handicap. Overall, Oxford look fearsomely strong and start as overwhelming favourites.

Torpids delayed

ROWING: A swollen river again caused the postponement of the second day of Oxford University Torpids on the Isis yesterday. The river continued to be on red alert, but the race committee has not given up hope of a start being made today. St Catherine's Boat Club captain, John Haynes, said yesterday: "There is no Torpids today, but, if there is no more rain in the next 24 hours, we are very hopeful of racing on Friday."

Benn adds punch at last

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

WITH just three days to go to his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title defence against Gerald McLellan, Nigel Benn finally made an appearance at a press conference called by Frank Warren yesterday to publicise the show at the London Arena on Saturday.

Having finished giving evidence in the morning in the High Court in an action brought against him by his former trainer, Brian Lynch, Benn dashed from the law courts to Docklands to pile on the hype that Warren had been craving all week to nudge ticket sales to a sell-out. Benn had contracted to make three publicity appearances, two before the event and one after it.

After saying "talk is cheap", the champion, 31, who arrived in London on Wednesday after six weeks of training in Lanzarote, made up for lost time and spoke for a good ten minutes. The court case, he maintained, had not affected his training nor his concentration. He promised to take the 27-year-old challenger from Detroit to school.



Benn: late arrival

"When I've got a fight lined up nothing can come between it, nothing," Benn said. "If a fight's going to get me going, this is the fight to do it. I'm looking for a good fight, if it goes one round or 12, it doesn't matter. The buzz he's given me is tremendous."

Benn said he did not rate McLellan higher than Watson or Eubank. "He's banged out a lot of people, but who?" Benn said. "Just the same way Michael Watson took me to school, I have to do that to him. I intend to. I hope his punch is going to be there after one or two rounds because, remember, I too can punch, harder."

McLellan said that he had never gone 12 rounds in his career and did not intend to now. He reiterated his intention to knock Benn out inside six rounds.

Collision course punished by ban

DAVID MYERS, who plays for Bradford Northern, has been suspended for the rest of the rugby league season and fined £250 for deliberately running into the back of a referee. He is likely to appeal against the punishments.

Myers, 23, had been cited by the Rugby Football League board of directors after Greg McCallum, the controller of referees, had noticed the incident while watching a video recording of Bradford's game against Leeds in the Challenge Cup on February 12. The game was refereed by John Connolly.

Myers faces the prospect of another, potentially more damaging inquiry, also involving team-mate Dave Watson, after both refused to give samples for drug-testing after last Sunday's home victory against Hull.

"The panel took a very grave view of the incident with the referee," Neil Tunnicliffe, a Rugby League spokesman said announcing the decision.

"The game prides itself on its discipline in relation to match officials and the standard will not be allowed to slip under any circumstances."

Myers said his punishment was "grossly unfair. I've never even been sent off before and I've only been sin-binned three times, two of which were for technical offences.

"I'm 14 stone and if I'd hit anybody deliberately, they would have known about it. I wasn't looking where I was going and was not aware of the referee."

Fortune changes tack to aid French

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

MARC PAJOT and his French America's Cup crew experienced a much-needed change of fortune at the end of the third round of the Louis Vuitton challenger trials here on Wednesday. After the keel fell off their trial yacht earlier this week, the French ended a run of defeats with an encouraging victory over the Japanese to keep hopes flickering that they may yet make the semi-finals.

This time it was Makoto Namba and his team who appeared to be the victims of a jinx. They won the start but then had to watch as *France*' took advantage of a favourable windshift that propelled her into the lead. The Japanese then compounded their problems by hoisting one gennaker too many after rounding the weather mark. In a moment of uncharacteristic carelessness, the bowman, Sofuku Kazuhiko, hooked up two downwind sails together and, by the time he had recovered the situation, *Nippon '94* had slipped a further seven lengths astern of the French crew.

For Pajot, it was a vital break, with the French now within one race of overtaking the Japanese for fourth place when the next round of trials starts in a week.

New Zealand maintained its unbroken run with victory over *Sydney '95* and is now assured of a place in the semi-finals.

"We can't go on winning every race. At some point, a breakage or bad windshift will knock us down." *New Zealand*'s designer, Doug Peterson, admitted yesterday. "The performance gap between us and the other challengers is closing, particularly the new *oneAustralia* which is almost certainly as fast as us upwind but a little slower downwind."

John Bertrand and his *oneAustralia* team have secured second place in the trials after beating *Tag Heuer Challenge*, skippered by Chris Dickson, in the last race of the series.

Both *Sydney '95* and *Rioja de Espana*, which is skippered by Pedro Campos, have little left in their arsenals to lift their performances but the Japanese and French crews may both have a few cards still to play.

Namba and his crew are expected to bring out for the next round their new boat, *Nippon '95*, which, according to team sources, has proved consistently faster during trials against the older boat this week.

The French, on the other hand, are relying on a radical quadrilateral mainsail, which they were testing against France when she capsized, to propel them into the semi-finals.

☐ Robin Davie, the British solo yachtsman who suffered a dismasting 2,000 miles west of Cape Horn earlier this week, has set up a jury rig on his 40ft yacht, *Cornwall*, and is continuing in the BOC Challenge round-the-world race. The leader, Christophe Auguin, is within 600 miles of the finish of the third leg from Sydney to Punta del Este, Uruguay, having built up a 430-mile lead over his fellow Frenchman, Jean Luc van den Heede.

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Woodhall moves into big league

RICHIE WOODHALL, the European and Commonwealth middleweight champion, is in line for a world title challenge against the winner of the World Boxing Council (WBC) championship bout between Julian Jackson, of the United States, and Agostino Cardamone, of Italy (Srikumar Sen writes). Woodhall became the leading WBC contender after his ninth-round victory over Silvio Branco, of Italy, in a European title bout at Telford on Wednesday. The contest was a WBC final eliminator.

Mickey Duff, who manages Woodhall, said he would be talking to Don King and Frank Warren, the promoters who have options on Jackson and Cardamone, but he believed that they would keep Woodhall waiting after seeing the emphatic way in which he beat Branco.

Duff believes Woodhall can win the world title because Jackson is not the force he once was and Cardamone only narrowly beat Branco. Woodhall, despite being penalised one point for constantly losing his gumshield, was six rounds in front on the referee, Andre Ducrocq's, card at the time of the stoppage.

If Woodhall is kept waiting for his world title challenge, he will have two or three more bouts in the meantime, defending his Commonwealth and European titles and taking a ten-round warm-up. Woodhall, who is generally regarded as a boxer, showed he could fight under pressure as well.

"I answered a few questions," he said. "I showed a lot of people I'm not just a fancy man and can punch and mix it. I'm up there with the best."

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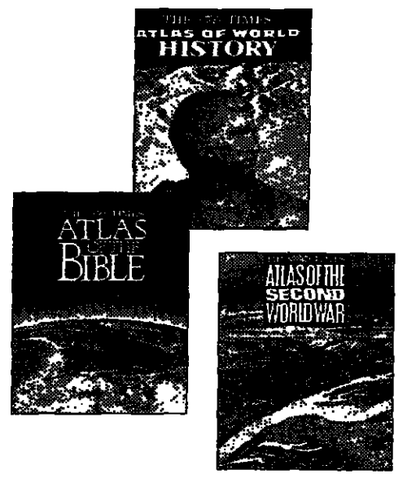
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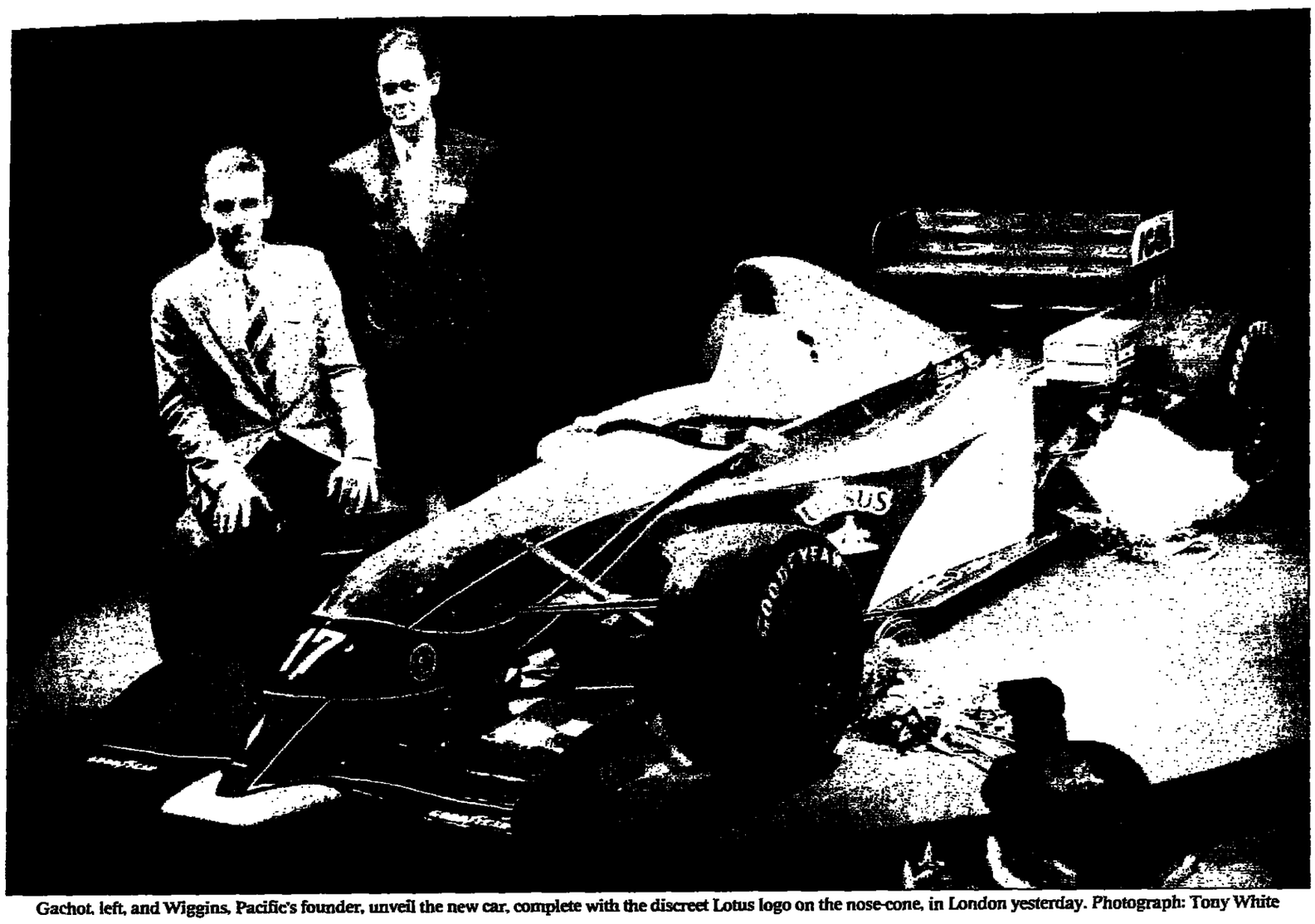
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Formula One stragglers find strength in alliance with Lotus



Gachot, left, and Wiggins, Pacific's founder, unveil the new car, complete with the discreet Lotus logo on the nose-cone, in London yesterday. Photograph: Tony White

Pacific propelled by oceans of drive

Andrew Longmore sees a new car and a new dawn after a tale of endurance

The presence of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu and the elegant setting of the Strand Theatre lent a proper sense of history to the launch of the new Pacific Team Lotus Formula One car yesterday. A neat touch of humour, too, given that last year's car became a candidate for the National Motor Museum long before it went to a private collection in Ireland and the team, so successful in every other formula, had to endure the sort of pants-down sniggering usually reserved for the corniest of West End farces during its first foray in Formula One.

Yesterday was a cause for celebration as much as a day of hope, the car, bathed in spotlights, fêted by rock music and awash with dry ice, not just a symbol of a brighter tomorrow but aluminium-honeycombed uni-directional carbon-fibred female-moulded proof that if you have the will to go racing, there will always be a way, even through the financial black hole of Formula One.

Pacific has done more than survive: it has prospered, adding Team Lotus to its title and a number of new sponsors to its list. The sums are already beginning to add up to a workable budget, with $8 million (about £5.3 million) already in the kitty and the second driver to Bertrand Gachot due to be announced in a day or two, doubtless contributing a million or so more in personal sponsorship. Poverty alongside Williams and McLaren, but incalculable wealth compared with moments last season, notably when a private benefactor had to pay to get the cars back from Japan after the second race. Typically, the team did not hide the begging bowl yesterday. "If any of you have any money or know anyone who has any money, please let me know," Mark Gallacher, head of marketing, told the audience at the Strand.

To its credit, Pacific did not flinch from embarrassment last season, though every competitive instinct must have demanded strategic withdrawal during a run of 11 successive races without qualifying. Indeed, the tiny motor home tucked into the lee of the mighty trucks in the paddock was often the one sure source of light entertainment in a grisly season. If there were jokes to be made about Pacific, the team at least had the wit and the honesty to coin the best lines themselves. Yet nobody really expected it to see out the season, let alone start a new one with a brand new car.

Other teams turned their heads the other way as if a weird cousin had gatecrashed the family party. From time to time, Bernie Ecclestone, head of the Formula One Constructors' Association, would pop his head through the door wondering if Pacific intended to qualify in the near future. Only the late Ayrton Senna bothered to offer any encouragement for the future, pointing out that Williams and McLaren had been through the same poverty trap too.

"The team's morale held up remarkably well," Keith Wiggins, the founder and managing director of the team, said, "but there were times when my own morale was tested to the limit. I was just not sure we were going to be alive the next day." Sometimes, he would spend a precious $25,000 on a new nose-cone just to pretend tomorrow would be better.

All that can be consigned to the past now. It is springtime, Interflora is one of the team's new backers and all the cars emerging coyly into the sunlight from industrial estates the length of Europe are equal until a wheel turns and the truth dawns. The new Ford-powered PRO2, with its prominent beak and chunky side-pods, might be the surprise package of the season. Unlike the previous car, the PRO2 is Pacific's own work down to the last nut and bolt. "So," as Wiggins admitted, "if it's a disaster, we've messed it up. Nobody else." On the stage of the Strand Theatre, gleaming under the arc lights, it looked a world-beater.

"Put it this way, we can only go one way," Wiggins added. "On the other hand, the mountain has got bigger. We cannot afford another season like last year." Or the joke will begin to wear as thin as Pacific's mantra: that they have won every other leading single-seater formula in Britain and Europe in the past decade.

The Thetford-based Pacific team has also chosen to uphold the tradition of Lotus, its Norfolk neighbour, though a discreet logo neatly obscured by the front wheel was the only sign of the alliance on the car. "The name has a ring to it," Wiggins said, "but I want to establish our own tradition, not rely on theirs." Pacific, he added, wanted to emulate Lotus by being world champions before the end of the century and to finish in the top ten this season. "It's all hype anyway, but you have to have aims." Just as long as they keep the common touch in fulfilling them.

New package protects Ryder Cup supporters

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IN 1991, several hundred golf followers, who had booked flights, tickets and hotel accommodation for the Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, had to be rescued at the eleventh hour when the travel agent went bust. Yesterday, the Ryder Cup authorities announced measures to try and ensure that a similar fiasco does not occur at this year's event at Oak Hill, Rochester, New York, in September.

Thomas Cook is the newly-appointed travel agent and has 2,000 packages to sell to enthusiasts at a starting price of £1,199, to include four nights' accommodation, air fare, tickets and transfers.

"We are not about to go bust," Warwick Woodhouse, of Thomas Cook, said. "Those customers who come with us to the Ryder Cup are protected."

Four years ago, the European Ryder Cup authorities paid £350,000 to bail out those whose arrangements were jeopardised by the collapse of Keith Prowse Travel. "That was an expensive lesson to learn," Richard Hills, director of the Ryder Cup, said.

This year, 500 tickets will be available for those wanting to make their own arrangements to attend the match, which will be held from September 22-24. Applications for these tickets will be scrutinised by the Ryder Cup authorities, to avoid any black market operations.

"If you want to go the Ryder Cup, the best way is by buying an official package," Scott Kelly, of the Ryder Cup committee, said. "We want to encourage people to take up these packages to make sure that they are not going to be ripped off."

Karlsson touches record heights

FROM MEL WEBB IN VALENCIA

YOU would always know if Robert Karlsson approached from behind and spoke to you on a dark night. His would be the voice that was coming from somewhere way above your head. At 6ft 5in the tallest player on the PGA European Tour, the Swede stirred his long limbs into spectacular action to take the first-round lead in the Turespaña Open Mediterrania at Escorpion yesterday.

Karlsson had a 64, eight under par and a course record, to give him a one-shot advantage over Ross McFarlane, with Fredrik Lindgren and Andrew Sherborne on 66, one ahead of José María Cañizares and two in front of a group containing Mark Roe, Sam Torrance, Lee Westwood and Peter Baker. Sandy Lyle, returning to tournament golf after his long winter lay-off, could only manage a 73.

Karlsson's score broke a record that has stood for 15 years, but only because it is that long since a European Tour event has been played here. Escorpion was a test for the best back then and still would be now if the wind were to blow, but, with the weather at its most benign, its flat terrain and wide-open fairways were ripe for the plucking.

The key to a round that contained nine birdies and only one bogey was Karlsson's play over the four par-fives, including one monster that is 597 yards long — not so much a golf hole, more a full-blown country walk. Karlsson got a birdie there and picked up shots at two of the other long holes for good measure. He finished with a surge of birdies, four in the last five holes pushing him suddenly out of the pack and into the lead.

McFarlane, who started at the 10th, reduced the par-five 18th to a bold drive over a lake protecting a left-to-right dogleg, a four-iron and a 25-foot putt for an eagle. He also had six birdies and only one bogey and sank four putts between 20 and 35 feet as he reached the turn in 30. An even more outrageous 45-footer followed on the 4th. "I'm a streaky putter," he said. "Sometimes I just can't get a feel for the greens, but today the holes looked like buckets." He could say that again.

McFarlane is a jovial Mancunian who derives a feel-good factor from his game by painting smiling faces on his golf balls — Mr Blobby was one of his 1994 favourites. He is also obviously a man of discrimination and taste; one of his hobbies is doing *The Times* crossword.

Sherborne did not get his round going until the 6th, but he then played the last 13 holes in six under par, including a one-shot penalty drop for an unplayable lie on the 14th.

Roe, meanwhile, was back to his day job after making an appearance as a member of Ian Botham's team in *Question of Sport* on Tuesday night and helping them to a one-point victory. His moment of glory came when he correctly and impressively identified an ancient picture of a young Mark James with hair but without moustache.

"You didn't know him when he had hair, did you?" somebody asked. "Know him? I wasn't even born when he had hair," came the snappy response from Roe, which earnt him eight for humour, ten for speed and zero for preserving cordial relations with the trichologically-challenged James.

LEADING SCORES

GB and Ire unless stated

64: R Karlsson (Swe). 65: R McFarlane. 66: A Sherborne, F Lindgren (Swe). 67: J-M Cañizares (Sp). 68: V Fernandez (Arg), S Torrance, M Roe, L Westwood, J Sandelin (Swe). 69: R Claydon, D Smyth, P Way, M Roberts, C Rocca (It), M James, P-U Johansson (Swe), J Bickerton, P Golding, W Riley (Aus), G Brand Jr, D Gilford, P Broadhurst, D Williams, M Mackenzie. 70: D Borrego (Sp), E Darcy, S Grappasonni (It), D Carter, S Watson, M Miller, L Lozano (Sp), M Litton, G Emerson, J Haeggman (Swe), H Clark, D Westermark (Swe).

Souyave surveys England's finest

Alix Ramsay looks ahead to the renewal of an old rivalry with a fierce competition for places

ANY fixture between England and Scotland's women hockey players brings out age-old rivalries and tends to be a blood-and-thunder affair. This weekend, England face the old enemy twice at Lilleshall, encounters that mark the real start of their build-up to the European championships in June.

Now that the coach, Maggie Souyave, has a full squad to choose from, the Great Britain players having returned from their training trip to the United States, she can begin to formulate her plans for the summer. Much as she is keen to see a competitive performance from her team, she is a little wary of the traditional battle lines that are drawn on these occasions.

"It will have a tinge of the home countries' contests to it," she said, "but I don't want just do-or-die stuff. We have got a big squad and everyone will be used. Sunday's team is likely to be very different from Saturday's and, while we will do all we can to win, the result will be a bonus. The main aim is to take a good look at everyone now all the players are back."

The matches against Russia three weeks ago gave Souyave the chance to see some players who had not featured on the international scene before, but now she can put their performances into perspective alongside the England and Great Britain regulars.

"Now it's up to the players," she said. "It's in their hands to prove whether they really want to be involved and show the level of commitment needed to be involved in international hockey. These matches will have a different feel to them and it will be interesting to see what we can learn." In the large squad of 21, only ten have survived from the matches against Russia; the rest have come back from the Great Britain training camp.

"Russia was the start of the programme, but this is the true start of the build-up to June," Souyave said. "Slowly but surely, we can now start to find the strongest 16 to take to the championships."

Scotland, too, have welcomed back six players from the Great Britain fold who, after three weeks on the road with their English colleagues, will know more than enough about Souyave's personnel.

While the result is not the most important item on Souyave's agenda, some habits die hard. Despite being half-Scottish, Souyave's loyalties remian rooted firmly south of the border. "Don't worry, I won't let that deflect me in the slightest," she said.

ENGLAND SQUAD: J Atkins (Bradford), L Bayliss (Sutton Coldfield), A Bennett (Slough), K Bowden (Peterborough), K Brown (Slough), L Cope (Leicester), T Cullen (Hightown), M Davies (Sutton Coldfield), S Gibson (Trojans), S Knight (Slough), F Lee (Hightown), S Lister (Ipswich), T Miller (Clifton), M Nicholls (Slough), C Reid (Hightown), H Ross (Ipswich), J Sbsmith (Sutton Coldfield), J Smith (Ipswich), J Thompson (Ipswich), S Wright (Slough), L Youngs (Ipswich).

SCOTLAND SQUAD: L Burton (Edinburgh Ladies), C Corcoran (Edinburgh Ladies), S Fraser (Grove), S Gilmour (Heriot Watt), J Jack (Edinburgh Ladies), S Lawrie (Slough), S MacDonald (Glasgow Western), F McInnes (Edinburgh Ladies), A Menzies (Glasgow Western), G Messenger (Edinburgh Ladies), A Ramsay (Grove), P Robertson (Grove), T Robb (Glasgow Western), D Renilson (Edinburgh Ladies), R Simpson (Edinburgh Ladies), H Walker (Heriot Watt).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

BERSAGLIERE

(c) A rifleman or sharpshooter in the Italian army, from the Italian *bersaglio* a target or mark. "The same war cry would resound from a battalion of dark-plumed Bersaglieri as they dashed up a bank at their peculiar pace."

DOWITCHER

(b) Any of several long-billed waders (genus *Limnodromus*) of North America, belonging to the family Scolopacidae and resembling the sandpiper, especially the red-breasted snipe (*Limnodromus griseus*). From the Iroquois. "The long-billed dowitchers are very much like a large snipe, of a pale cinnamon colour."

ENANTHEMA

(c) A mucosal, as opposed to a cutaneous, eruption, from the Greek *enanthēma* an eruption. "How then would he describe the difference between exanthema and enanthema?"

ARAPONGA

(c) The campanero or bell-bird of South America, also *arapunga*, from the Portuguese. "Above all these strange voices, the metallic tones of the araponga sound from the tops of the highest trees, resembling the strokes of the hammer on the anvil, which according to the position of the songster, fill the wanderer with astonishment."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Qf3! and if 2 Nxh3 (2 Qxf3 Rxe1 mate) 2 ... Qxc3 3 bxc3 Rxe1+ with an easy win.

RADIO CHOICE

Nostalgia off the record

Hits of the Forties. *Radio 3, 4.20pm*

Radio 3's *Forties* season is now well into its stride. Words and music are evocatively intertwined. I remember the 1940s well and, from what I have heard of the season so far, I unreservedly award it a certificate of authenticity. *Hits of the Forties* is the slot into which celebrities and lesser mortals pour their affection for songs that recall the decade. For the crime writer P.D. James, then in her late teens, one song above all others encapsulated the feelings of longing and hoping that the war engendered in those waiting for loved ones to return. The song is "J'attendrai" sung by Jean Sablon — a distinguished graduate of the school of instant nostalgia.

Kaleidoscope Feature: Acropolis Now. *Radio 4, 9.30pm.*

A Greek expert on preserving ancient buildings succinctly sums up the task of restoring the Parthenon crowning the Acropolis in Athens as tackling a crossword puzzle without a picture to work from. This handicap hasn't worried the Americans. They are putting up a full-scale replica of the Parthenon in Nashville, complete with roof and 42ft statue of Athene. Paul Allen's report on the restoration of the genuine Parthenon examines a moral dilemma. The temple was a monument to a democracy in which everybody shared in decision-making. Car exhaust fumes have bitten deeply into its marble. But car ownership is seen as a democratic right. Can individual freedoms be reconciled with community welfare?

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 *Lisa L'Anson with the Lunchtime Show*, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel 1.00am The FM Rap Show, with Weshwood

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm *Gloria Hunniford* 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 Martin Kelner 7.00 Maestro: Musical quiz 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.20 Interval: John Marsh introduces the Classic Buskers 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Austin Mitchell with the Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Digby Fairweather 1.00 *Adrian Finighan*

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine including at 9.40 Video Review; 10.35 Euronews; 11.00 Chain Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, including at 12.34pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 the day's sport 7.35 Sportstalk 9.05 Off Piste 9.35 Now *the Good News 10.05 Stop Press* 10.35 Financial Week 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night, with Richard Dallyn

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dee and Carol McGiffen 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Samantha Meah and Sean Bolger 10.00 Caesar the Geezer 1.00am Wild Al Kelly

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Fruhmagazin 5.00 Newshour 6.00 Morgenmagazin 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 *Jean de Florette* 7.30 Russia's Runaway Revolution 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Global Concerns 9.30 On the Move 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Focus on Faith 10.30 The Soul Show 11.00 Newsdesk 11.15 BBC English 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Russia's Runaway Revolution 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 *Jean de Florette* 2.45 Global Concerns 3.00 News 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.05 Business 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 *News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 Russia's* Runaway Revolution 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 People and Politics 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.30 Multitrack: Alternative 12.00 News 12.15am *The Essential Qur'an* 12.30 From the Weeklies 12.45 The Learning World 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Worldbrief 1.45 Jazz 2.00 News 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Vintage Chart 4.00 News

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 *Susannah Simons* 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Coyte 11.00 Nick Abbot 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.30am **Open University:** Binomials and Trigonometry 6.55 Weather

7.00 **On Air:** With Catriona Young. Bach (*Brandenburg Concerto* No 2 in F); Howells (Three Pieces, Op 28); Spohr (Variations in B flat on a theme from *Alruna*); Berlioz (Overture: Le Corsaire); 8.25 *Purcell Portfolio*: Purcell (A selection of songs); 8.45 Humperdinck (String Quartet in C, Op 30 No 1)

9.00 **Composers of the Week:** The Court of Dresden. Johann Hasse (Introitus; Kyrie, Requiem in C); Johann Pisendel (Sinfonia in B flat); Sylvius Weiss (Polonaise, Sonata in F); Johann Graun (*Concerto in G*); Carl Abel (Two pieces); Jan Zelenka (Kyrie, Missa dei Filii)

10.00 **Musical Encounters:** Purcell (The Comical History of Don Quixote, excerpts); Mozart (String Quintet in D); Stravinsky (Ebony Concerto); Strauss (Don Quixote); Messager (Solo de concours)

12.00 **Voices:** A selection of songs about clothes (r)

1.00pm **Chamber Music from Manchester.** The Medici Quartet performs music by Vaughan Williams and Tavener

2.00 **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** under Peter Maxwell Davies. Edward Harper (Intrada after Monteverdi); Maxwell Davies (Double bass Concerto, Strathclyde Concerto No 7); Judith Weir (Ist mirant . . . stella); Maxwell Davies (Suite: Caroline Mathilde)

3.00 **Mining the Archive:** Stephen Pleistow talks to Duncan Druce about the recordings of the Griller Quartet

4.20 ***Hits of the Forties:*** See Choice

4.30 **Music of the Silk Road:** Sara Nuttall and Ruth Davies present traditional music from medieval Baghdad and Persia

5.00 **The Music Machine:** A new work by Ryan Wigglesworth and Roisin Murphy (r)

5.15 **In Tune:** With Jeremy Nicholas. Sullivan (Imperial March); C.P.E. Bach (Sinfonia No 1 in D); Dohnányi (Piano Concerto No 2 in B minor)

7.30 **Towards the Millennium:** Ernst Kovacic, violin, and David Owen Norris, piano, perform Copland (Violin Sonata); Schoenberg (Phantasy, Op 47); 8.05 Catching the Eye: the development of art and design in the 1940s; 8.25 Bartók (Sonata for solo violin); Krenek (Violin Sonata)

9.15 **Second Draft from Sagaland:** Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell look at Icelandic government

9.35 **Music from Iceland:** Jon Leifs (Hekla); Jon Nordal (Concerto Lirico)

10.05 **Intersections:** The Composer's Ensemble under *John Lubbock performs* Webern (Quartet, Op 22; Five Canons, Op 16); The Hilliard Ensemble, with Jacob Heringman, lute, performs music by Heinrich Isaac

10.45 **Friday Feature: War and Peace.** *Archive recordings* recall the 1940s

11.30-12.30am **Midnight Oil:** With Alwynne Pritchard

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day, with Angela Tilby 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

9.00 **News 9.05 Desert Island Discs:** *Jimmy Knapp (r)*

9.45 **Feedback:** Chris Dunkley airs comments on BBC programmes and policy

10.00-10.30 **News; Listen to the Cinema!** (FM only): David Huckvale explores music in the cinema

10.00 **An Act of Worship** (LW only)

10.15 **Children's Radio 4: Marrying Off Mum** (LW only): Kristian Schmid reads the final part of Janice Marriott's book (r)

10.30 **Women's Hour:** Introduced by Alison Hilliard

11.30 **The Natural History Programme:** Presented by Joanna Pinnock

12.00 **News; You and Yours,** with Tasneem Siddiqi

12.25pm **The Food Programme:** A look at foods traditionally served in the sickroom 12.55 Weather

1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke

1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 **News; Classic Serial: The Winter of Our Discontent.** Jack Shepherd stars in the concluding part of William Roberts's dramatisation of John Steinbeck's tale of ambition and corruption in 1960s America (r)

3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift:** With Laurie Taylor.

4.00 **News 4.05 Kaleidoscope:** Tim Marlow sees a new exhibition of Spanish still life at the National Gallery, and talks to the Cornish printmaker Guido Morris

4.45 **Short Story: Success or Failure.** Christian Rodska reads T.H. White's story (r)

5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 **Six O'Clock News**

6.30 **Going Places:** David Stafford with ideas for making the most of the weekend

7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**

7.20 **Pick of the Week:** With Christopher Serle

8.05 **Any Questions?** Joining Jonathan Dimbleby in Basingstoke are Elspeth Howe, of the Broadcasting Standards Council; *The Daily Telegraph*'s radio critic Gillian Reynolds; Shadow Scottish Secretary George Robertson MP; and Teresa Gorman MP.

8.50 **Law in Action:** Marcel Berlins examines the issues shaping the law

9.15 **Letter from America,** by Alistair Cooke

9.30 **Kaleidoscope Feature:** Acropolis Now (r). See Choice 9.59 Weather

10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Robin Lustig

10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Happy Sad Land,** by Mark McCrum (5/7)

11.00 **Week Ending:** A satirical news review

11.25 **Fourth Column:** With Alistair Beaton and guests

11.45 **Today in Parliament**

12.00-12.43am **News** incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast 12.43 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz. Listings by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson

No giggles, please, this is courtroom drama

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

The *Radio Times* said "Imagine *LA Law* set in England" — but I ask you, was that cruel, or just thoughtless? **Crown Prosecutor**, BBC1's stolid refutation of the adage that "you can't go wrong with courtroom drama" finally hit the screen last night, and I for one would like to say thank you, thank you for a bloody good laugh. God bless them for seeing the funny side. What a hoot to give the big boss of the Crown Prosecution Service a pair of dentures the wrong size, so that when he snapped, "Wordzz. My offish!" you could fall on the carpet with impunity. Not since *Crossroads* have I heard such genuinely shallow drivel ("Am I getting . . . old, Ben?"), nor seen such perfect mood swings in the course of conversations.

Big Boss (with ill-fitting teeth and northern accent, shouting more loudly than the occasion demands): "Where'shz it gonna end? Bloody great cue cardzz in court?"

Harangued Underling sees the funny side. He laughs. Both men laugh more than the occasion demands. All is well.

But to begin at the beginning, *Crown Prosecutor* is a new ten-part drama series of half-hours, and it is not supposed to be funny. Even though Mrs Overall lurks around every corner with a tray of coffee cups; even though there is a giveaway poster of Lady Penelope pinned to the wall (with its overt message "Trees died for this?"), it is still *not supposed to be funny*. The people of the CPS are, alas, indistinguishable from barristers; and they feature among them Nina (haughty, short skirt, shapely pins, appetite for bananas); Sheila (old, but only in the sense of three dots and a question mark); Marty (Thunderbirds gigolo, with strings showing on shoulders); Eric (ambitious, black); Lenny (gung-ho for justice); and Ben (the bossh with the negligent dentishi).

Five full weeks before April 1, there is simply no explanation for *Crown Prosecutor*. It will please only the lobby who abominate background music. The featured court case was of no interest whatever. Back at the flat-packed office, files were dumped on desks (to indicate workload), and an unknown vampish blonde in a short peach suit with black body and tights (yuk!) came to collect Marty's things. She picked up his shower gel, and read out a sentence at random. "Reawaken your body? Mmmmm." No wonder ITV is getting a better name for drama these days; at least they confine this sort of stuff to the ads.

Pleasant surprise of the evening was **Jobs for the Girls** (BBC1), in which Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, of the loathsome *Birds of a Feather*, did a crash course in dog training and won prizes at Cruft's. In six weeks they learned to handle and groom two old English sheepdogs, and trot alongside them in a show-ring. Having started out larkily (dragged by unruly ten-ton dogs and shrieking), they quickly heeded Angela Rippon's matronly advice, and pulled themselves together. This was a serious business requiring concentration, Rippon warned them. In the event, the star of the show is the dog.

There is such appalling scope for sexist insults here, these plucky women deserve extra credit for not caring. Anyway, although the secret of successful dog-handling remains a bit of a mystery, Pauline and Linda worked hard with the dogs, in cold barns, with wildly unflattering bobble-hats crowning their wildly unflattering ensembles; and in the end, they did themselves great credit.

"I didn't tell you I vomit when I'm extremely nervous, did I?" said Pauline, just prior to entering the show-ring at Cruft's. These women genuinely cared about doing a good job, and the anxiety on screen was so intense it couldn't help affecting the viewer at home. Was Pauline brushing the dog's hair the right way? Up, Pauline, up! Oh no, the dog has decided to sit down again! Hold the lead to the side, Linda! Put the back legs together! Remember where the judge is! I never thought I'd be bothered to see Sharon or Tracey win third prize in a dog show, but then life is all about new experiences.

Channel 4's **Secret Lives** taught us what a lot of us knew already: that Walt Disney was a despotic and paranoid anti-communist FBI informer who couldn't draw Mickey Mouse to save his life. Personally I didn't know that Dumbo was created by blacklegs during a union dispute (I feel guilty about enjoying it now). But conclusive though all the damning evidence was, there was a lack of objective judgment in some areas. Footage of the picket which finally poisoned Uncle Walt against his staff was construed in hindsight rather disingenuously — as if Disney was plain crazy to take it personally. We were likewise expected to boo the villain when Disney sacked some harmless animators who, just for fun, made a film of Mickey and Minnie enjoying sexual congress. What on earth did they expect him to do? Give them an Oscar?

In the second episode of **Hearts and Minds** (Channel 4), Christopher Eccleston faced his first few days as a real teacher, and soon ran out of ideas. He was reduced to reading aloud W.W. Jacobs's "The Monkey's Paw" — one of the most gripping ghost stories ever written, leaving him nowhere else to go. Other plot-lines developed — the opting out, the headmaster's Lolita problem, the clash of individual teaching standards, the whingeing wife.

A kid stole all the videos from the English department's new television archive. "They took everything bar the first 100 episodes of Brookside," lamented the new head of English. "That narrows it down," quipped the investigating officer. "A thief with taste."

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (25298)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (6231054)

9.05 Swat Kats (r) (s) (4636618) **9.30 White Fang** (r) (8743279) **9.55 Christopher Crocodile** (r) (2879618)

10.00 News (Ceefax). regional news and weather (7831540)

10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days (r) (Ceefax) (s) (88480076)

10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday family magazine (4020366)

12.00 News (Ceefax). regional news and weather (1723366) **12.05pm Pebble Mill**. Gloria Hunniford is joined by Rosemary Squires and Bill Cotton (s) (2959908) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (75031298)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (73786)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (82859347) **1.50 Crown Prosecutor** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (85474362)

2.20 Holiday (r) (Ceefax) (s) (61622182) **2.50 The Flying Doctors** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4965540)

3.35 Cartoon (9294453) **3.45 Bitsa** (s) (9281989) **4.00 Jackanory:** *A Wizard of Earthsea* (s) (4154163) **4.10 Rugrats** (s) (4852569) **4.25 The Borrowers** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2136540)

4.55 Newsround Extra (5306415) **5.05 Grange Hill** (Ceefax) (s) (3997649)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (924724)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (279)

6.30 Regional news magazines (231) **Northern Ireland:** Neighbours

7.00 Wipeout with Paul Daniels. (Ceefax) (s) (6182)

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Carol Vorderman unveils the magnetic gripper that will enable people to climb tall buildings; and Shahnaz Pakravan reports on television diagnosis. (Ceefax) (s) (415)

8.00 The Unforgettable EastEnders: Michelle Jilts Lofty. A classic episode to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the programme (r). (Ceefax) (2502)

8.30 Do the Right Thing. Terry Wogan's guests, Edwina Currie, MP, John Stalker and Janet Street Porter, are presented with a caseload of moral dilemmas (s) (1637)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2347)



George Irving and Nigel Le Vaillant (9.30pm)

9.30 Dangerfield starring Nigel Le Vaillant as a police surgeon. (Ceefax) (s) (422076)

10.20 FILM: For the Boys (1991) starring Bette Midler and James Caan as a successful all-singing all-dancing duo whose stormy relationship offstage threatens the partnership. Directed by Mark Rydell. (Ceefax) (s) (94342434) **Wales:** Paper Dragon *10.50 FILM:* for the Boys 1.10-2.30am FILM. The Premature Burial

12.40am FILM: The Premature Burial (1962) starring Ray Milland as a 19th-century man who believes his father was buried alive and is terrified that he will meet the same fate. Directed by Roger Corman. (Ceefax) (4692583)

2.00 Weather (5694854)

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Absolute Zero — How Low Can You Go? (7303298) **6.45** Instruments — Made to Measure (8772144) **7.10** TV — The Global Impact (3115540) **7.35** Technology (2582328)

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7230892)

8.15 Germany 1925-32 (s) (8010366) **8.20 Boating Butler** Tony Butler travels from Upton-upon-Severn to Stourport (r) (7621328) **8.50 A Week to Remember** (b/w) (2081569)

9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes Plus, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (2887637) **2.00** Johnson and Friends (28943618)

2.10 Open View (r) (41386144)

2.15 Sport on Friday introduced by Helen Rollason. The Churchill Insurance World Indoor Bowls championship; the **2.30, 3.00** and **3.30** races from Haydock; and a review of the week's football news. Includes **News** and weather at **2.50** (948298) **3.50 News,** regional news and weather (3513434)

4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (144)

4.30 World Bowls. Further coverage (98255)

6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (r). (Ceefax) (457618)

6.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). Private detective comedy drama (407415)

7.15 The O-Zone. Pop music magazine (s) (840255)

7.30 Operavox. An animated version of Verdi's *Rigoletto*. With the voices of Jonathan Summers, Rosemary Joshua and the orchestra and chorus of the Welsh National Opera. (Ceefax) (647)



Lana Wong and Andy Earl take aim (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **The Photo Show**. (Ceefax) (s) (5124)

8.30 NEW **Gardeners' World**. Geoff Hamilton with the latest developments in the world of gardening. (Ceefax) (s) (9279)

9.00 Steptoe and Son (b/w) (r). (Ceefax) (8219)

9.30 CHOICE **Our Man in . . . Havana**. (Ceefax) (s) (786811)

10.10 CHOICE **The Car's the Star: Triumph Herald** (Ceefax) (s) (879182)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (873958)

11.15 The Mrs Merton Show Spoof chat show, presented by Caroline Hook as an ageing agony aunt. (Ceefax) (s) (618540). **Wales:** Welsh Lobby 11.45 The Mrs Merton Show 12.15am Duckman 12.45-1.35 The Fugitive

11.45 Duckman. Adult animation (s) (426499)

12.10am Weather (1516274)

12.15 The Fugitive (b/w). Man-on-the-run drama (r). (Ceefax) (7576767). Ends at **1.10**

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CHOICE

The Photo Show
BBC2, 8.00pm

A six-part series on photography aims to mix instruction and entertainment and to cater for enthusiasts on all levels of ability. The magazine format ensures a wide scatter of items, though trying to cover half a dozen topics in half an hour does not allow for much depth or detail. In one of the best pieces, three professional photographers are invited to Trafalgar Square and challenged to avoid the pictorial clichés of a popular tourist spot. The results are original, not to say startling. George Melly turns up to sing the praises of Man Ray and Lee Miller, and we see how two press photographers cover a football match at Old Trafford. The twist is that both are women. There are also details of current exhibitions.

Our Man In ...
BBC2, 9.30pm

Clive Anderson makes such a performance of not being serious that you cannot always tell when he is. He is in Havana this week, checking out Castro's Cuba. Socialist paradise or brutal Communist dictatorship? Anderson promises to deliver his verdict. But there are gags to be got out of the way first. The running one is whether Castro will show up for a promised interview. There is a joke about Lada cars being stolen by Lada louts. There is a "I must whisper because the hotel might be bugged" routine. A street poster proclaims "socialism or death". Not much choice, really, quips our chirpy guide. The non-funny bits include food rationing, the American trade embargo and boat people trying to escape to Miami.

The Car's the Star
BBC2, 10.10pm

Launched with dancing girls at the Albert Hall, the Triumph Herald was perfectly timed for the late 1950s. New-found affluence meant that motorists could aspire to something better than the dreary Standard 8 and the Herald combined the glamour of Italian styling with advanced suspension and a turning circle as good as a London taxi. Never mind that the early cars handled like supermarket trollies and had a nasty tendency to let in water. Never mind that by today's politically correct standards, the advertising was appallingly sexist. The difficulty was making enough vehicles to meet demand. Quentin Willson's homage mixes period footage with tributes from delighted owners such as Lord Howe.



David Rintoul and Jennifer Ryan (ITV, 9.00pm)

Dr Finlay
ITV, 9.00pm

Although the clues are there, in the hairstyles and the way people dress, you can forget that the saga of Tannochbrae is taking place nearly 50 years ago. The period is particularly important for this week's scenario in which a young man is beaten up just because he is homosexual. Without the knowledge that this is 1948, the furtiveness about an activity that was still illegal and the intolerance of the community towards a social taboo would make little sense. To this piece of disturbing social history the scriptwriter adds a good old clash of loyalty. Cameron (Ian Bannen) and the pharmacist (Gordon Reid) have a shouting match over a prescription. Poor Janet (Annette Crosbie) is caught in the middle. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON/LWT

6.00am GMTV (1365521)

9.25 Chain Letters (s) (4625502) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (2864786)

10.00 The Time. . . the Place with John Stapleton (s) (4981453)

10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine presented by Stephen Rhodes and Alison Kennan (90025163) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (1712250)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4648057)

12.55 Coronation Street (r). (Teletext) (4656076) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (61205502)

1.55 The Chrystal Rose Show with guest Hughie Green (s) (19224291) **2.25 A Country Practice** (s) (61616521)

2.50 Take the High Road. Scottish drama (9433182) **3.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (7192366) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7191637)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (9271502) **3.45 Warner Brothers Cartoons** (r) (9276057) **4.00 Zzzap!** (s) (4823057) **4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures** (9789796)

4.40 NEW **The Geeks** (Teletext) (s) (5235386)

5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (3864188)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (902637)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (444144)

6.25 London Tonight presented by Lindsay Charlton and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (934144)

7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. The comedian hosts the gameshow where prizes can be won or lost by the turn of a card. (Teletext) (1250)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (811)



Lynne Miller is WPC Cathy Marshall (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Eyes and Ears. A witness seems too eager to report to the police after he sees a man critically injured by a car. (Teletext) (7298)

8.30 The Upper Hand. Twee romantic comedy starring Joe McGann and Diane Weston. (Teletext) (s) (6705)

9.00 CHOICE **Doctor Finlay: A Natural Mistake**. (Teletext) (s) (6279)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (19453)

10.30 Crime Monthly. Penny Smith appeals for help with unsolved crimes in the London area, plus a feature on the investigation that led to the capture of a man who abducted a woman on her way to work (57057)

11.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (331095)

11.40 FILM: Desert Rats (1988) starring Scott Plank. Modern-day western tale about a local rebel who foils a bank robbery and is subsequently promoted to town sheriff. Directed by Tony Wharmby (969347)

1.05am The James Whale Show Late-night debate and interviews (s) (5212212)

2.05 The Chart Show (s) (6471854)

3.00 Noisy Mothers (s) (4030187)

3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (8469496)

4.30 The New Music. Canadian musicians and DJs discuss their country's music business (45903)

5.30 ITN Morning News (57767). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Sandokan (r) (8776960)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (96637)

9.00 Wish Kid (r) (96502)

9.30 Schools: Eureka! (5032786) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (5060569) **10.00** Fourways Farm (7815502) **10.10** Maths Everywhere (2239845) **10.25** Eurokids (1784750) **10.40** Off Limits (3585076) **11.05** Schools at Work (9238705) **11.11** Time for Maths (2627279) **11.22** Stage One (2607415) **11.40** How We Used to Live (3994892)

12.00 Profiles Of Nature The common loon (r) (16366)

12.30 Sesame Street The guest is Johnny Cash (85637) **1.30 The Magic Roundabout** followed by **The Wombles, Paddington** and **The Clangers** (r) (26979124)

1.55 FILM: Blacksmith (1921, b/w). A Buster Keaton comedy short (82845144)

2.20 FILM: The Franchise Affair (1950, b/w) starring Dulcie Gray, Marjorie Fielding and Ann Stephens. A 15-year-old girl accuses a mother and daughter of kidnapping her and forcing her to work as their servant. Directed by Lawrence Huntington (930279)

3.55 Waterways. The first of a six-part series in which Dick Warner cruises the waterways of Ireland on board a 50-ton barge (r). (Teletext) (8889250)

4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (724)

5.00 Cutting Edge: Jumpers (r). (Teletext) (s) (8163)

6.00 Blossom (r). (Teletext) (989)

6.30 Movievatch. Includes four London filmgoers reviewing the latest releases (s) (569)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (448182)

7.50 You Don't Know Me But . . . A person in the news receives unsolicited advice (597106)

8.00 The 3,000 Mile Garden. The last in the series about two keen gardeners separated by the Atlantic. (Teletext) (s) (8540)

8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (4347)

9.00 Ellen. American comedy series starring Ellen DeGeneres. (Teletext) (5057)



Leonard Rossiter is Mr Rigsby (9.30pm)

9.30 Rising Damp. Classic boarding house comedy starring Leonard Rossiter as a lascivious landlord (r). (Teletext) (45366)

10.00 Roseanne. (Teletext) (17095)

10.30 Jo Brand Through the Cakehole (r). (Teletext) (s) (352163)

11.05 The Word. The special guest for this 100th edition is Sharon Stone (619705)

12.10am Beavis and Butthead. Irreverent animated music video reviews (s) (1508187)

12.40 FILM: Summerspell (1983) starring Frank Whiteman, Dorothy Holland and Jennifer Mayo. A drama set in the late 1940s about a family reunion on a Texas ranch run by the son of the dying owner and his city-born wife. Directed by Lina Shanklin (735212)

2.20 FILM: The Lone Wolf Strikes (1940, b/w) starring Warren William. A thriller in which the thief-turned-sleuth investigates a murder and the theft of a pearl necklace. Directed by Sidney Salkow (5182458). Ends at **3.30**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (82847502) **2.20** Gardens without Borders (61606502) **2.50-3.20** Wish You Were Here . ? (9433182) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (3864188) **6.25-7.00** Anglia Weather followed by Anglia News (934144) **10.40** Love Call Live (736076) **11.40** Bodies of Evidence (321453) **12.35am** The Hidden Room (2211632) **1.00** The New Music (77283) **2.00-3.00** The James Whale Show (60187) **4.00** Cue the Music (57748) **5.00-5.30** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (89011)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82847502) **2.20** Wish You Were Here . ? (61606502) **2.50** Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (7622144) **3.15-3.20** The Cookery Club (7195453) **5.10-5.40** Eye TV (3864188) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (934144) **10.30** Central News and Weather (758453) **10.40** Central Weekend (6940502) **12.10am-1.05** Renegade (7564922) **4.25** Jobfinder (7929019) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (8502477)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (4656076) **1.25** Home and Away (302189501) **1.50** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (7566502) **2.50-3.20** Wish You Were Here . ? (9433182) **5.10-5.40** High Road (3864188) **6.25** Granada Tonight (548434) **6.50** Kick Off (494434) **7.00-7.30** Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (1250) **8.30-9.00** The Upper Hand (6705) **10.00** News at Ten, Weekend Weather (19453) **10.40** Up Front (736076) **11.40** The Equalizer (321453) **12.35am** Eye TV (1523564) **1.05** The James Whale Show (5212212) **2.05** The Chart Show (6471854) **3.00** Noisy Mothers (4030187) **3.55** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (8469496) **4.30-5.30** The New Music (45903)

HTV WEST

As London except: 9.55-10.00 HTV West Headlines (3864786) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV West News and Weather (1712250) **1.55** High Road (19224291) **2.25-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (2211250) **3.25-3.30** HTV West Headlines (7191637) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (3864188) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (927) **10.30** HTV West Headlines and Weather (758453) **10.40** Late and Live (9681076) **12.05am-1.05** Father Dowling Investigates (7555274)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 9.55-10.00 HTV Wales News (3864786) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV Wales News and Weather (1712250) **3.25-3.30** HTV Wales News (7191637) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (927) **10.30** HTV Wales News and Weather (758453) **10.40** Film: Servants of Twilight (Bruce Greenwood, Ian Abercrombie) (91124927) **12.30am-1.05** The Hidden Room (5810039)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82847502) **2.20-2.50** Houseparty (61606502) **5.10** Home and Away (3864188) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes - Your Story (100298) **6.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (42279) **10.00** News at Ten, Weather (19453) **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (758453) **10.40** Slo-Time (5584341) **11.10** Martin's Day (103095) **1.00am** The New Music (77293) **2.00-3.00** The James Whale Show (60187) **4.00** Cue the Music (57748) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (89011)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 12.25-12.30 My Story (1737569) **1.55** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (7595873) **2.55-3.20** A Country Practice (7621415) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News, Weather (7191637) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (3864188) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (422276) **10.30** Westcountry News, Weather (758453) **10.40-1.05pm** The Unforgiven (46835724)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82847502) **2.20-3.10** Murder, She Wrote (2238827) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (3864188) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (385863) **6.30-7.00** Superchamps (907) **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (758453) **10.40** Music and Movies (558434) **11.10** The Hidden Room (113386) **11.40** Cactus Flower (781057) **1.35am** The James Whale Show (64817671) **2.35** The Big E (9054651) **3.30** The Story Of Steam (97084211) **4.10** Shell (7933212) **5.00-5.30** Sportsworld (89011)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (96637) **9.00** Wish Kid (96502) **9.30** Ysgoloion (8113328) **12.00pm** Profiles Of Nature: The Loon (16366) **12.30** Sioe Mathrin [25502] **1.00** Sesame Street (20057) **2.00** Queen Bee (9332371) **3.40** The Autobiography Of A Jeep (9275328) **3.55** The Pulse (8899250) **4.30** Saved By The Bell: The College Years (724) **5.00** 5 Pump (63281) **5.30** Countdown (796) **6.00** Newyddion (639298) **6.15** Heno (5735211) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (9892) **7.30** Penwythmos Mewr (453) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (6540) **8.30** Newyddion (4347) **9.00** Pawb A'I Farn (253892) **9.45** Cut ol Order: The Sun is the Voice of the Nation (520144) **10.00** Brookside (17095) **10.30** Jo Brand Through The Calsthole (352163) **11.05** The Word (619705) **12.10am** Beavis and Butthead (1508187) **12.40** Summerspell (735212) **2.20** Film: The Lone Wolf Strikes (5182458)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am DJ Kat (20415) **8.00** Power Rangers (2871347) **8.45** Oprah Winfrey (9975873) **9.30** Card Sharks (811182) **10.00** Concentration (89873) **10.30** Candid Camera (52182) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (13328) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (43434) **12.30pm** E Street (92298) **1.00** St Elsewhere (80453) **2.00** The Dynasty Dynasty (605021) **3.00** Oprah Winfrey (1688724) **3.50** DJ Kat (42972279) **4.30** Power Rangers (59360) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (85669) **6.00** Gamesworld (6453) **6.30** Family Ties (7705) **7.00** E Street (92981) **7.30** M*A*S*H (3989) **8.00** The Andrew Newton Hypnotic Experience (5618) **8.30** Coppers (7453) **9.00** Chicago Hope (82124) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (326011) **11.00** Late Show (233724) **11.45** Littlejohn (929144) **12.30am** Chances (37939) **1.30** Night Court (61922) **2.00-8.00** Home Long Play (51956896)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.

6.00am Sunrise (9680057) **9.30** Worldwide Report (239601) **10.30** ABC Nightline (507234) **11.00** News and Business (3497961) **1.30pm** CBS News (25569) **2.30** Parliament Live (57618) **3.30** This Week in The Lords (8811) **5.00** Live at Five (2897273) **6.05** Richard Littlejohn (70856521) **8.00** News and Business (18250) **9.00** O J Simpson Trial (5243569) **12.30am** CBS News (28941) **1.30** Target (76309) **2.30** Parliament Replay (50496) **3.30** This Week in The Lords (55841) **4.30** Fashion TV (87903) **5.30-6.00** ABC Nightline (99767)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (4543304) **10.00 Graveyeglo** (1978) (637866) **12.00 Captive Hearts** (1987) (94705) **2.00pm How to Murder Your Wife** (1964) (24511) **4.00 The Portrait** (1992) (41753298) **5.55 The Apartment** (1960) (878222279) **8.00 Hot Shots! Part Deux** (1993) (91450863) **9.40 US Top Ten** (795521) **10.00 Three of Hearts** (1993) (447322) **11.50 No Retreat, No Surrender 3: Blood Brothers** (1989) (6688932) **1.25am Blood In, Blood Out** (1993) (31129038) **4.20-6.00 Graveyeglo** (1978) As 10am (663699)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm This Gun for Hire (1942) (17569) **8.00 The Rose Tattoo** (1955) (89786) **10.00-12.00 Frankenstein Created Woman** (1966) (72908)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am We're No Angels (1954) (238074341) **7.50 Dunderklumpen** (1973) (6462637) **9.15 Don Quixote** (1987) (52908736) **10.10 West of Zanzibar** (1954) (58255328) **11.45 I See Ice** (1938) (87942501) **1.10pm Tarzan the Fearless** (1933) (42077241) **2.40 Paris When it Sizzles** (1963) (26824328) **4.30 Dunderklumpen** (1973) As 7.50pm (51085403) **5.55 Mrs Lambert Remembers Love** (1991) (16842908) **7.30 The Movie Show** (9927) **8.00 Mr Saturday Night** (1992) (14434) **10.00 29th Street** (1991) (24712473) **11.45 Sniper** (1992) (6062827) **1.25am Sodbusters** (1993) (8822123) **3.05 Visions of Murder** (1993) (8296651) **4.35-6.00 I See Ice** (1938) As 11.45am (89480378)

● For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Soccer News (4600193) **7.15** WWF Action Zone (138969) **8.15** Soccer News (22863289) **8.30** Transworld Sport (21231) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (63083) **10.00** Opposite Lock — Motorsport (29927) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (61415) **12.30pm** US PGA Golf (3 7057) **2.30** Andy Gray's Bootroom (958921) **3.30** Rugby Union (4453) **4.00** ATP Tennis Magazine (3360) **4.30** Transworld Sport (23960) **5.30** Soccer Magazine (3724) **6.00** Soccer Weekend (282981) **7.00** Schoolboy Rugby Football, Live Victory Shield — Northern Ireland v Wales (72086) **9.00** Ringside Boxing (995211) **11.00** Soccer Weekend (782774) **12.00** Soccer Magazine (29822) **12.30-12.30am** Schoolboy Football, Northern Ireland v Wales (38903)

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00am Mean Machine Golf (7030786) **6.30** NBA Action (70543456) **7.00** Watersports World Special (8384517) **8.00** A to Z of Sport (8390057) **9.00** US PGA Golf, Live (8363144) **11.00** World Sport Special (1874786) **11.30-12.00** Freestyle Skiing (2363144)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Golf (13960) **8.30** Eurofun (85085) **9.00** Snowboarding (76347) **9.30** Tennis (913044) **11.00** Alpine Skiing (75182) **12.00** Live Freestyle Skiing (17182) **1.00pm** Tennis (962961) **1.30** Athletics (33873) **2.30** Car Racing (80360) **3.30** Olympic Magazine (95211) **4.00** Live Tennis (57640571) **6.30** News (8347) **9.00** Boxing (613666) **10.00** Wrestling (644531) **11.00** Motorsports (633471) **12.00-12.30am** News (14090)

SKY SOAP

8.00am Loving (6936705) **9.30** Peyton Place (69371376) **9.00** As the World Turns (83121434) **10.00** Guiding Light (66509068) **11.00-12.00** Another World (66301144)

Neighbours (27703681) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (2998611) **8.30** EastEnders (2897182) **9.00** The Bill (2988434) **9.30** All Creatures Great and Small (4341279) **10.30** Casualty (6858908) **11.30** No Place Like Home (4622347) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (2808296) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1849908) **1.00** EastEnders (6170124) **1.30** The Bill (1848279) **2.00** Dear John (45862311) **2.30** Just Good Friends (2512298) **3.00** Knots Landing (46261163) **4.00** Dallas (46452981) **5.00** Every Second Counts (97024434) **5.35** Dick Emery (9889611) **5.55** Hi-De-Hi (1586085) **6.30** EastEnders (2504279) **7.00** Dear John (4597347) **7.30** Father, Dear Father (2593163) **8.00** My Name is Harry Worth (4506095) **8.30** Fresh Fields (4585502) **9.00** Casualty (9840786) **10.00** The Bill (2909927) **10.30** Miami Vice (6446873) **11.30** Top of the Pops (97901821) **12.20am** Dr Who (2360583) **12.50** FILM: Vault of Horror (1973) (13113018) **2.20** Shopping at Night (37047019)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (1185144) **6.55** Garfield (9652521) **7.25** Eek the Cat (87889081) **7.55** Pugwall (33708731) **8.25** Super Mario Brothers (1842521) **8.45** Casper (9558453) **9.00** Sesame Street (62279) **10.00** It's Drobee Time (95521) **11.00** Portland Bill (82057) **12.00** Garfield (21811) **12.30pm** Eek the Cat (47347) **1.00** Beverly Hills Teens (86873) **1.30** Super Mario Brothers (60851537) **1.45** Baby Felies (83384340) **2.00** Barney (8366) **2.30** Babar (5908) **3.00** Around the World in Eighty Seconds Winners Trip to Holland (53717284) **3.15** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (688382) **3.45** Now Roadshow (453863) **4.15** Head to Head in 3D (17655693) **4.30-5.00** California Dreams (5144)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Denver (50873) **7.30** The Chipmunks (79308) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (39288) **8.30** Rocko (98569) **9.00** Rugrats (72521) **9.30** Clarissa (89205) **10.00** Grimmy (21873) **10.30** Where on Earth is Carmen San Diego? (78705) **11.00** Killer Tomatoes (21250) **11.30** NickAlive! (39279) **12.00** Pee-Wee (89057) **12.30pm** Galaxy High (41981) **1.00** Doug (59144) **1.30** The Chipmunks (51732) **2.00** Denver (5250) **2.30** Speed Racer (9750) **3.00** The Ghostbusters (1057) **3.30** Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? (2096) **4.00** Grimmy (1502) **4.30** Rugrats (7786) **5.00** Clarissa (6502) **5.30** Doug (1366) **6.00** Galaxy High (8273) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark (2231)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Earth Tremors (4638540) **5.00** Biography (7960250) **5.55** California Oil Beat (7142163) **6.05** Beyond 2000 (8478434) **7.00** Charlie Bravo (4595869) **7.30** A Traveller's Guide to the Orient (2591705) **8.00** Jurassica (4504637) **8.30** Terra X (4583144) **9.00** Islands of the Pacific (7782182) **9.50** Only in Hollywood (3990434) **10.00** Future Quest (2807569) **10.30** Next Step (2883989) **11.00** First Flights (4644569) **11.30-12.00** The X-Planes (4713076)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Who Was Maddox? (1964) (4724182) **2.00pm** The Avengers (4712347) **3.00** Rat Patrol (4590434) **3.30** Hogan's Heroes (2502811) **4.00** FILM: Mad About Men (1954) (5580705) **5.30** Drama Classics (2501182) **6.00** The Protectors (2508095) **6.30** Edgar Wallace (28312501) **7.30** Sabre of London (2588231) **8.00** The Avengers (9955618) **9.00-12.00** FILM: The Diary of Anne Frank (1959) (95666569)

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BOWLS 40
CHAMPION GRIMLY HANGING ON TO WORLD TITLE

SPORT

GOLF 42
KARLSSON TOUCHES RECORD HEIGHTS IN TURESPANA OPEN

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24 1995

Punishment buck passed to Football Association after Premier League verdict

Inquiry's findings condemn Graham

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

GEORGE GRAHAM stands, for the moment, the sole sacrifice on the altar of a national sport that at long last admits there is something profoundly wrong, even corrupt, about the way footballers are bought and sold.

His position as the pariah was confirmed yesterday when the 22 chairmen of the FA Premier League met in the morning and endorsed, to a man, Arsenal's decision to dismiss Graham last Tuesday.

Whether these chairmen will now rigorously call to account their own managers — if they have retained them for as long as it takes to set up an inquiry, pontificate and judge — we wait to discover, but that note of total cynicism is surely justified by the manner yesterday in which the Premier League delivered its file on the "Graham Affair" and then, in words that Sir John Quinton, chairman of the Premier League board, admitted, was "passing the buck." The buck passes from the Premier League to the Football Association, the only body in Britain with punitive powers and it, of course, says it needs time to read and digest the report into Graham's activities.

His misdemeanours appear to be grave. The extent of the figures and of the personal negotiating done by Graham is greater than was thought. The Premier League commission of inquiry report is explicit on the monies he was given and on the manner in which he and the Norwegian agent, Rune Hauge, dealt in the purchase of Pal Lydersen and John Jensen.

"George Graham has received two payments originating from Interclub Limited, a Guernsey-based company in which Rune Hauge has an interest:

£140,500 on 23 December 1991 in cash and deposited in a bank account in Dublin.

£285,000 on 19 August 1992 paid by bank transfer to an account in Guernsey."

Doing its arithmetic, the Premier League statement then added that "on 1 December 1994, consultants acting on the instruction of Mr Graham paid £425,500, plus £40,000 on account of profits, to Arsenal FC's bank account."



MICHAEL POWELL

Sir John Quinton, left, chairman of the FA Premier League board, and the Premier League chief executive, Rick Parry, address the press and media yesterday

The commission had seen Graham on two occasions. The first time he complied with their questions, the second his counsel refused to let him speak, but the Premier League statement concluded: "We have been supplied the copy of the opinion of leading counsel acting on behalf of Mr Graham, who was instructed by Mr Graham that the sums 'were not paid pursuant to any arrangement connected with the transfers, but were paid by the agent, as a mark of his gratitude'."

Later, Rick Parry, chief executive of the Premier League, said that the three-man commission, which has investigated irregular transfer sums for the past 15 months, "have great difficulty in accepting that Mr Graham did not know that the payments derived directly from the transfer fees paid by Arsenal".

The mind boggles at the sums. It is hard to believe that there can be any other walk of life in which a man untrained in accountancy or in business is allowed the sole responsibility to oversee trading, as Graham did in his 8½ years at Arsenal, amounting to a turnover of £36 million. He bought 24 players at a cost of £23.45 million, he sold 22 players for £12.97 million — a deficit to Arsenal Football Club of £10½ million.

See him, if you will, as the victim. Hear his words of pain on Tuesday when he called for a full FA investigation, asking: "What is the future for football if the standards of justice inside the game can be ignored in this way?

"I appeal to all right-minded lovers of the great game of football to press for a full and open inquiry by the Football Association."

Yet the detail contained in the Premier League statement is chilling. It states that, with the agent, Hauge, acting as middleman, Graham flew to Oslo in September 1991 to negotiate with three officials of IK Start for Lydersen, a full back he was subsequently seldom to include.

According to the Premier League, Graham and Hauge negotiated a price of £215,000 — and even this appears generous considering that Lydersen had only a month left on his contract and would, under Uefa rules, have been available for around £150,000.

At the end of the Oslo meeting, Graham telephoned Ken Friar, the managing director of Arsenal and said the deal had been agreed at £500,000. The money was paid. Later, The Norwegian club kept just £190,000, and paid the rest to Hauge's company, Interclub, including a cut of £25,000 to the player.

The Jensen case, much publicised since newspaper revelations last December, involved an alleged fee negotiated by Graham at £1.57 million — and the selling club, Brondby, of Denmark, then paid £739,433.48 to Interclub. If the figures are damning, then so, surely, is the ostrich-like behaviour of Arsenal, a club which slept while, allegedly, its manager duped it of cash. There were questions to both the Premier League and the FA yesterday as to whether Graham would be disciplined, whether Arsenal would face any punishment, even whether Hauge remained welcome to deal with English clubs, with full FA blessing.

Alarmingly, the answer is that the case, the buck, is in transit. "We have only received the information this morning," Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, said. "Clearly it relates to an extremely serious issue, we will give it urgent consideration in the public interest. Hopefully the position will be clearer within a week or so."

Behind all the shifting of feet, the non-statements and the extreme caution, there lies the fact that other investigations are under way and that the Premier League commission has found itself impeded by lawyers.

The fact is that Hauge, who has negotiated with vested interests on more than one side for at least ten players to come to our leading teams, is a licensed, bona fide gentleman who Fifa, the international rulers of the game, say is guilty of nothing. They say he is a man to be recommended, so what can Graham Kelly, Sir John Quinton, or anybody else say to that?

Kate Hoey, the Labour MP, who has called for a body outside football to investigate sleaze, remarked last night: "Self-regulation is no good for football, just as it is no good for MPs." Precisely so; but with members of Parliament having their own integrity impugned, with solicitors and lawyers this week also under fire, where is the pure authority which can clean up a national sport?

I would not have a clue how it is done, but I merely suggest that if your household has any bright-eyed youngster who wishes to follow the game, you shield him or her from the dreadful machinations that purport to be sport.

'The FA disciplinary commission is vulnerable if it attempts to impose the extreme penalty on Cantona it, and others, might wish'
David Miller, page 40

Wood axed for France match

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

KEITH WOOD, the Garryowen hooker hailed as a world-class rugby union forward by no less an authority than Bob Dwyer, the Australia coach, on tour last year, has been dropped by the Ireland selectors for the five nations' championship match with France at Lansdowne Road on March 4.

He is one of three changes to a side which, in championship terms, has lost its way, though the French have doubled that by replacing six of the players who failed against the Scots. Instead, they look to the past and give recalls to three players over 30, Franck Mesnel, Louis Armary and Marc Cécillon.

Successive defeats by England and Scotland have sent Ireland back to Eric Elwood, who replaces Paul Burke at stand-off half; to Jim Staples, who would have played full back against Scotland but for a bout of flu and now displaces Conor O'Shea; and to Terry Kingston, the Dolphin hooker, who replaces Wood.

Kingston, 31, has accumulated 18 caps since his debut in 1987 and has performed a remarkable resuscitation to his career after the disastrous tour to New Zealand in 1992. Yet Wood, 23, represents the future, and to cast him out now seems short-sighted in the extreme.

Doubts have been raised about his throwing at the lineout, which ignores the fact that his lineout jumpers have changed in every match this season and that it was the back five forwards who were less than impressive at Murrayfield. However, each of them retains his place ahead of the experienced Lock, Mick Galwey, and the uncapped flanker, Eddie Halvey, from Ireland's leading club, Shannon. Nor is there a place for Neil Francis.

Elwood's return was expected; indeed, it was surprising that he was not chosen against England in January, well though Burke had played for Cork Constitution and Munster. It was asking a lot of the younger man to become the linchpin of a side still seeking an identity and now further from it than ever. Wood having followed David Corkery, the other acknowledged success of last summer's tour, onto the sidelines.

The French selectors, for their final championship match, have given such players as Thierry Lacroix, Laurent Cabannes and Olivier Roumat a tart reminder that they are not indispensable. All three will surely go to the World Cup but for now Mesnel returns at 33 for a 53rd cap; Armary, 31, wins his 41st at loose-head prop and the remarkable Cécillon, now 35, will collect his fortieth in the back row. Philippe Benetton moving to flanker.

Yann Delaigue takes over the hot spot of stand-off half. In the second row, Olivier Merle is restored after his omission for a head-butt on Ricky Evans during the game with Wales.

Blow for Shaw, page 40

DUBLIN TEAMS

IRELAND: J E Staples (Harlequins); S P Geoghegan (Bath), B J Mullin (Blackrock Coll), P P A Danaher (Garryowen), J C Bell (Ballymena), E P Elwood (Lansdowne), M T Bradley (Cork Constitution, capt); N J Popplewell (Wasps), T J Kingston (Dolphin), P M Clohessy (Young Munster), A G Foley (Shannon), P S Johns (Dungannon), G M Fulcher (Cork Const), W D McBride (Malone), B M Cronin (Garryowen).
Replacements: N K P J Woods (Blackrock Coll), P A Burke (Cork Const), N A Hogan (Terenure Coll), M J Galwey (Shannon), G F Halpin (London Irish), K G M Wood (Garryowen).

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers, s), E N'Tamack (Toulouse), P Sella (Agen), F Mesnel (Racing), P Saint-André (Montferrand, capt); Y Delaigue (Toulon), G Accoceberry (Begles-Bordeaux); L Armary (Lourdes), J-M Gonzales (Bayonne), C Califano (Toulouse), P Benetton (Agen), O Merle (Montferrand), O Brouzet (Grenoble), A Benazzi (Agen), M Cécillon (Bourgoin).
Replacements: S Viars (Brive), P Carbonneau (Toulouse), A Macabiau (Perpignan), A Costes (Montferrand), M de Rougemont (Toulon), M Pene (Toulon).

Billiards breaking with tradition

Phil Yates says the three-ball game continues to innovate, hoping to match snooker's appeal

Imagine the scene: a press conference hosted by football's top brass to announce that, because of the farcically high scores now prevailing in the professional game, the dimensions of the goals were being reduced; or one at Augusta announcing that the size of the holes would be halved because of a spate of 58s at the Masters.

Throughout the century in professional billiards, however, there has been a tradition of the rulemakers implementing changes to blunt the repetitive skills of its leading exponents. The latest alteration was introduced at the Strachan United Kingdom championship, which began in Wigan yesterday.

In order to make sizeable breaks harder to achieve, the cue-ball must now cross the baulk line at least once for every 100 points scored. That interrupts, if not completely eliminates, continuous "top of the table" sequences which provide a turn-off for casual spectators if not for the cognescenti.

"It's like Stephen Hendry being required to pot at least one yellow from every five reds he knocks in during a break," explained Geet Sethi, an urbane Indian who occupies an equivalent position of supremacy in the billiards world rankings to that of Hendry in snooker.

Sethi, who graduated from Gujarat State University with a masters degree in business administration, held the world-record break of 1,276,000 before the rules received their most recent update. Because of his outstanding break-building prowess, he should, in theory, vigorously oppose the baulk-line rule.

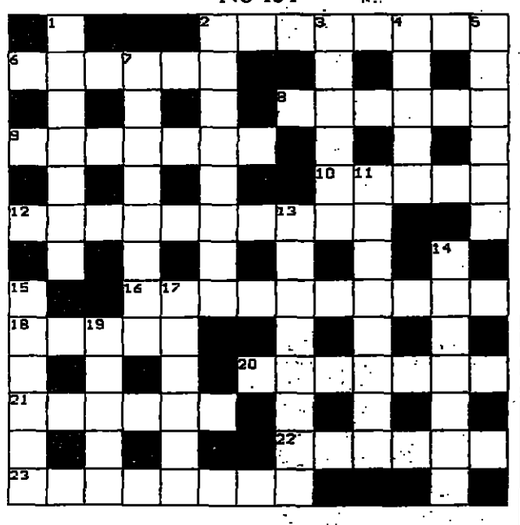
Yet, in common with the majority of the other top players, Sethi is in favour of anything which will add to the popular appeal of a game which has taken a back seat to snooker since the mid-1930s.

In 1907, when snooker was in its infancy and had no competitive structure, Tom Reece carried tedium in billiards to new heights by compiling a break of 499,135 (unfinished) during a challenge match with Joe Chapman at Soho Square, London.

The break, which consisted entirely of anchor cannons off the red and his opponent's white, both of which had become lodged in the jaws of a top pocket, took 86 hours, spread over six weeks, to construct. Chapman departed for home in disgust with the break still in progress.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 404



ACROSS
2 Quick picture (8)
6 Make a fuss of (6)
8 Loud disturbance (stage direction) (6)
9 Economical: having mercy (7)
10 Command (5)
12 Raise (conversation) topic (5,1,4)
16 Struggle prodigiously (5,5)
18 Wood-borer (5)
20 Fissile element (7)
21 Emissary (6)
22 Belt: surround (6)
23 Napoleon's final defeat (8)

DOWN
1 Calculate (7)
2 Prehistoric pre-metal period (5,3)
3 Wanness (6)
4 Given a job (5)
5 Quality of tone colour (6)
7 Unexpected event (8)
11 Comfy chair, adjustable back (8)
13 Bosom friend (5,3)
14 Loquacious (7)
15 Indulge, roll about (in) (6)
17 Author (6)
19 Leg of lamb, mutton (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 403

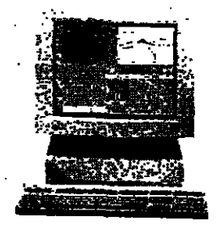
ACROSS: 8 Frame-up 9 Evade 10 Spectacle 11 Din 12 Towel 14 Embroil 15 Bouncer 17 Reels 19 Nod 20 Unsettled 22 Genie 23 Snorkel

DOWN: 1 Offset 2 Safe 3 Reith Lectures 4 Specie 5 Reverberation 6 Wardrobe 7 Vernal 13 Wounding 15 Benign 16 Resist 18 Saddle 21 Luke

TIMES PUBLICATIONS: **The Times Guides**: English Style and Usage (HB) £8.99. International Finance, Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-5, Single European Market £9.99 each. Peoples of Europe (HB) £16.99. European Parliament - June 1994 (HB) £26. NEW The Times Guide to the New British State £17.99. **The Times Maps**: The World (Wall Map laminated) 62"x40" £15.99. (folded) 48"x30" £5.99. Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50, The Times 1000 1995 (HB) £33.50. The Times Concise Atlas of the Bible (HB) £13.99 (reduced from £15.99). **The Sunday Times** Book of Answers £4.50. Book of Brainteasers £5.49. Prices include P&P (UK). Cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel. 0181 852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

MORSE

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